

# **EVARU DONGA**

BY

**ACHARYA ATREYA**

## **Episode – 1**

An announcement in the mike that the play 'Evaru Donga' is being enacted. Police whistles are heard. A man comes running from one side. He asks the spectators whether anyone of them has seen a man running away in this way. He is a rogue, he says. He says he has broken open the lock of hostel stores and has escaped.

People from the audience shout, "thief, thief". They searched the warden of the hostel. The warden comes to the people enquire what is the fuss about. People say that a thief has entered the store. He is also worried and says the play will go on and he hurriedly goes towards the hostel store.

The Sub-Inspector of Police comes and asks for the warden. The warden asks him whether the thief is caught. People who went in search of the thief cannot find him. He asks the warden to come to the police station and give a complaint. The warden says he will come later. The Si stops him and says that he is under arrest.

Meanwhile comes a constable and wants the S.I. to come with him to a rice mill nearby because there is some conspiracy going on there. He explains that he overheard a conversation in which someone was demanding that he should mix half a bag of small stones in a bag of rice for which he gets a profit of 30 lakhs ... and the other man is asking for ten thousand rupees as bribe.

The warden announces that the curtain will now rise and the play will go on.

## **Episode – 2**

A police station. The prisoners are in a jovial mood, but not the S.I. off stage a woman's huge cry is heard. The doctor is summoned. A constable announces the death of three children. The doctor comes and examines a woman and declared her dead. The S.I. feels awfully hurt. The woman has committed suicide along with her three children, falling into a well. A newspaper correspondent comes. The S.I. says the enquiry may be reported in the press.

The warden is called. The SI has asked him from where did they procure rice. The warden answers that it is from Bapuji mills. The owner of the mills, Chowdary is called in. he is shown the rice with stones. He is asked how much do they give the D.S.P. he stammers and doesn't answer. He requests the S.I. to permit him to take away confiscated rice bags.

Choudary gives a long list of officials who indulge in receiving bribes. The warden goes to see if a telephone is around so that Chowdary can speak to the minister.

The thief who ran across the area in the beginning comes again and enquires whether any woman committed suicide here. And she has three children. He goes hurriedly to see the dead bodies.

The S.I. asks the DSO about the stones in the rice. The DSO says he doesn't know. He tries to keep a bundle of notes into the wastepaper basket for S.I. The Munsiff and Chowdary are also made to confess their crimes.

The thief comes weeping. He says he did the theft for food; for keeping his wife and children alive. Why are these big heads in the society doing theft? He complains that little people are arrested and big people go scot free. He cried and collapsed.

Meanwhile the SI reveals a cover in which a letter indicating his transfer from the place.

The SI takes a fistful of rice and says that they could not provide him food while alive. At least let him have it after he died.