

# **NISHPHALAM**

By

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## **Episode – 1**

Chitrarekha, a prostitute, is the keep of a zamindar, Ranga Rao. She is getting ready to receive the Zamindar's wife, Seethayamma. Ranga Rao, the zamindar, comes and wonders at her getting ready. She tells him that there are three decrees by the court on three warrants and she has paid the amount. She tells him that the zamindar's wife is coming to see her. He is both astonished and bewildered. Seethayamma arrives. Ranga Rao doesn't want to face her. Chitrarekha asks him to stay in the next room and bolt it inside.

Sethayamma comes and is welcomed by Chitrarekha. Ranga Rao is all praise for his wife since she doesn't go to any place except the temple. He is agitated. Sethayamma narrates how their family was famous and what she has suffered after coming to her husband and for his wayward behaviour and especially his attachment to her. She says that she come to request her to pay back the debts of her husband. Otherwise he is going to be arrested.

Seethayamma suggests that if Chitrarekha sells one of her costly necklaces, she can save the Zamindar. Chitrarekha shows her jewellery and reveals the shocking news that if she sells even all of them, they will not fetch any money at all. They are artificial jewelry.

Sethayamma is shocked. Chitrarekha tells her how she has cleared several debts of the zamindar by selling all she had. She showed the documents. She presented the receipts along with the dates.

Sethayamma is ashamed. She sympathizes for the fate of Chitrarekha. But Chitra ironically replied that all family women think that a prostitute does not have any consideration for love, gratitude and obligation.

But Sethayamma says Chitrarekha has other treasures still in tact – for example, her beauty. There are several people who want to buy it. If she wants to repay the zamindar's debts, she can only call one of her several suitors.

Chitrarekha is enraged at this insults. She says that if she is a prostitute by profession, she is a human being. Sethayamma ridicules that she is talking like a sacred woman.

Ranga Rao comes out of the room and tries to pacify Sethayamma. But his wife says that he must decide either to leave her and come with her or be with her and forget his wife.

Ranga Rao follows Sethayamma arguing with her about the goodness of Chitrarekha.

Chitrarekha brings all the decrees and documents and lit fire to them.