

RAJA RAJU

By

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Episode – 1

King Raja Raja of Rajamahendravaram and his minister, Maharudraiah and his court poet Nannaya were looking at the portraits of Princesses from other lands to select a probable bride for Sarangadhara, the King's only son.

They discuss the relative merits of the girls. Maharudraiah terminates the discussion when the King himself seems to have favoured a girl 'specially'. The girl, Chitrangi, is extremely beautiful and the king seems to have inclined towards her for which the Minister plays a second fiddle.

Nannaya abruptly leaves.

Episode – 2

The king and the Minister discuss the possibilities of the King himself marrying Chitrangi. The minister says that Krishna married Satyabhama and cites many more examples.

The king is of the opinion that Chitrangi, the daughter of a lord under their sovereignty Ramabhadra Raju, has to be considered a bride – not for the son, but to the king himself.

Episode – 3

The king stays in his own chambers and does not visit the queen, Ratnangi. Two maids, one of the king and the other of Ratnangi, exchange notes about the selection of a bride.

Ratnangi is talking to Subudhi, a close friend of her son, Sarangadhara who tells her that in the recent hunting expedition Saranga seems to have loved Ramabadra Raju's daughter, Chitrangi.

The queen is extremely happy that her son selected the right girl for she has already heard about the excellent qualities of the girl. Sarangadhara is shy.

Meanwhile Vijayaditya, the king's brother, comes along with some portraits of girls sent by the king. He specifically mentions that one photograph in particular is only intended for their seeing but not for selection. He says that one portrait has been kept aside for the king himself. The portrait is that of Chitrangi.

Episode – 4

Ratnangi and Vijayaditya feel hurt. The queen says that it is most unfortunate that the portrait brought for selection for the son has been selected by the father.

Sarangadhara is on the side of his father. He argues that if the king has selected any girl, it may be for political reasons. No one can question him.

The queen is now afraid that ultimately her son may at least be termed as heir apparent of the Kingdom. Vijayaditya says it is too early to deliberate on that point.

Episode – 5

In Jakkula Devi Chitrangi and her compatriot, Chilaka, talks about their experience in the hunting expedition and how Sarangadhara has shown both his boldness for fighting and his love for Chitrangi.

Meanwhile, her father sends for her. There is an ambassador from the king. He proposed that the king wants to marry his daughter.

Peru Bhotlu, a priest of the royal family, talks to Maharudraiah about a 'Vratam' the would be queen has. The 'vratham' involves worshipping mother Goddess until midnight, fasting in the nights. This should go on for six months. The husband is not supposed to touch her during the six months.

Grudgingly Maharudraiah accepts the conditions.

Episode – 6

Chitti Veeranna, the Chief Minister and Ratnangi confer. Vijayaditya is also there. They think of the pros and cons of the wedding. Saranga is shocked and is talking to no one.

They talk about the fortune of the state if this goes on.

Saranga and Subuddhi spend their time reading Nannaya's latest versus in Mahabharatam. It is about Yayati asking his sons to transfer their youth to him. Subuddhi comments on how relevant it is to the present condition. Saranga stops him.

Episode – 7

Nannaya talks to the king frankly about the selection of the bride. The king has not spared even a great poet like Nannaya. Chitti Veeranna, the Chief Minister tries to intervene. But the king snubs him and disposes of Nannaya abruptly.

Nannaya is shocked. He leaves. Chitti Veeranna cautions the king that things are going out of control. Raja Raja says that an old man's anger does not perturb him.

Maharudraiah comes to speak pleasingly about the coming marriage.

Episode – 8

The marriage comes to enquire about his young bride's health. Chitrangi rejects to see him. Chilaka asks her to stand behind the door and she herself speaks to the king.

The king suggests that the young queen should pay a visit to the elder queen. They are prepared to see the queen.

Maharudraiah's servants also talk greatly of the new queen. The minister appoints two confidants to be vigilant all the time at Chitrangi's palace.

Episode – 9

An incident at the wedding catches the attention of the queen and Vijayaditya. When the garland is to decorate the bride's neck, she pulls off and the garland of jasmines is broken.

They also speak about Saranga's growing indifferent attitude to things around. He is not eating properly. He is not concentrating on anything.

Vijayaaditya advises that he should come back to usual life.

Episode – 10

Nannaya is seriously ill. The king also is agitated. He sends for the best doctors available in the state.

Chitti Veeranna hesitatingly suggest that there is only one way of Nannaya recouping. The king himself must to go him and invite him back to the court. That will make his health alright.

The king says that unless Nannaya expresses his repentance for his naughty behaviour, he will not be admitted into the court.

The king concedes that if Nannaya comes on his own volition, he will welcome him as before. Beyond that he will not do anything.

Episode – 11

The king and Mahendraiah speak about Saranga and his attitude to marriage. It is possible that if they can bring together a good natured girl from a royal family meet Saranga alone. They selected Viswanatha Bhupati's daughter for such a meeting.

Saranga and Subuddhi are talking in the garden. Chilaka appears on the terrace of Chitrangi's palace. She comes down and talks to Saranga about how

Chitrangi is spending the time in penance, hoping that her husband will one day concede her desires.

Chilaka comes running to report about Saranga's encounter with the daughter of Polanadu Lord. Both of them entreated each other as brother and sister. Chitrangi leaves a sigh of relief.

Episode – 12

The king is disgusted with the behaviour of his young queen. He wants to go on hunting and asks Mahendraiah to make arrangements.

Chitti Veeranna reports that Mahakavi Vemulavada Bheemakavi has arrived in the city and would like to see the king. The king says he is in a hurry on an expedition and requests that he be treated with due respect.

Sarangadhara looks at Chitrangi's palace and sees that Chitrangi is constantly looking at him intently. He quickly goes away.

Episode – 13

Subuddhi comes with a repentant voice to Saranga because he committed a grievous crime in properly projecting Saranga's love for Chitrangi at the right time in the presence of the King.

Saranga says it is too late to discuss such things now.

A parrot comes into the palace near Saranga.

Episode – 14

Saranga comes from a rear gate into Chitrangi's palace for his parrot.

Chitrangi meets him, reminds him of the old encounter. Saranga accepts that he loved her at that time.

Chitrangi says that she accepted for this wedding for two reasons – she can be nearer to Saranga and her father cannot avoid the royal alliance.

Saranga calls her 'mother'. He says it is now impossible to get back to old sentiments. But she says that she did not allow the king even to the portals of her house.

But Saranga sings the old song and treats her as a mother.

Chitrangi is enraged. She calls him an ennunch.

Episode – 15

She wreaks her vengeance. Mallappa the spy reports to Maharudraiah about Saranga's visit to Chitrangi. The king encounters Chitrangi. She is frank. She tells the king what kind of an old crook he is. The king reprimands her for her unethical behaviour. She counters him saying that there will not be any worse ethical behaviour than his because he married the girl intended for his son.

The king comes closer to punish. She tells him how she loved Saranga and how he rejected her.

For the king this is a great shock because he has already ordered for the beheading of Sarangadhara and people have gone to implement the order.

She draws her dagger and kills herself before the king comes closer and touches her.