

TULASI TEERTHAM

By
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Episode – 1

Ranganathacharya is a great devotee, always conscious of cleanliness and will not allow anyone to touch him when he is in the temple. His wife Andalu is a woman of modern tastes. She likes cinemas and loves to read cinema magazines and imagine her husband to be like cinema heroes.

Ranganathacharyulu comes from the temple – Andallu gets fresh hot milk from him to drink. Acharyulu asks her not to touch him. He wants her to listen to Bhagavatham. She doesn't like it. He pesters his servant Narayana to listen Bhagavatham. When he is reading it, though he has no liking for it he listens to it.

When one day Narayana goes near Acharyulu while coming home, he touches Acharyulu and he insists that he must take his bath again even if it is cold. Andallu is vexed with this orthodoxy.

She borrows through Narayana magazines like Vijayachitra and imagines her husband to be like the heroes. She doesn't like to do the naivedyam items every day.

Acharyulu wants Narayana to listen to Gajendra Moksham. When he is reading it, Andallu runs from the kitchen, embraces her husband and says there is a snake in the kitchen. Acharyulu says that he will see for some man to come and kill it.

Meanwhile Narayana kills the snake in the kitchen. Since he has gone into the kitchen, Acharyulu gets it cleansed with necessary mantras. He asks Narayana to take away all eatable because he touched them.

Episode – 2

Acharyulu doesn't allow Andalu to hear the radio as well. Andalu dreams of her husband to like Rama Rao and Nageshwar Rao. But her dreams are never realized. Angered she opposes her husband. The husband bluntly asks her to leave him and go to her mother's place. She leaves.

Narayana finds fault with Acharyulu that only due to him. Andalu has gone away. Acharyulu is angry and abuses Narayana. Narayana has also left the house.

Narayana is unwell. He lies down on a cot uncared for by anyone. He is coughing and no one cares for him and takes him to the doctor.

He is so weak that he cannot speak. He is thirsty but cannot get up and drink water. One day Narayana comes to enquire about his health. Acharyulu weeps and asks him to give him some water. Hesitatingly Narayana gives him water. Acharyulu says that this water serves him like "Tulasi teertham" and made him live again.

Andalu comes to know of his ailment and comes back. Acharyulu says that though Narayana is of another community, he saved his life.

Saint Ramanuja said that we should put aside our blind beliefs regarding our lives. But, as Acharyulu says, they are still hankering over old habits.