

The king meted out poetic justice



Manoj: Why was he stopped?

కొంతమందికి ఒక్కోసారి చేయని నేరానికి శిక్ష పడుతుంది. అసలు నేరస్థుడు రొమ్ము విరుచుకుని తిరుగుతుంటే, అమాయకుడు శిక్ష అనుభవిస్తాడు. ఇలాంటప్పుడు 'ఇదేం న్యాయం' అనిపించడం సహజమే. ఇక్కడ మనోజ్, రంజన్ కూడా ఈ విషయమే మాట్లాడుకుంటున్నారు. న్యాయం ఎలా ఉండాలి? 'అనగనగా ఓ రాజు..' కథ ద్వారా వివరిస్తున్నారు. నిజమే.. అమాయకుడికి శిక్ష పడటం అన్యాయమే!

ఇంట్లో మాట్లాడదాం



Ranjan: The servant wanted a share.

Manoj: The news I read this morning was highly disturbing and thought-provoking.
Ranjan: What news?

Manoj: About the release of Ranga from jail.
Ranjan: Why were you disturbed?

Manoj: He had been thrown into prison for no crime of his.
Ranjan: Was he innocent?

Manoj: Everybody in our locality knows that he was guiltless and innocent.
Ranjan: How many days had he been behind the bars?

Manoj: Days? He was set free after twelve years!
Ranjan: Innocent but incarcerated? And languished in jail for twelve long years?

Manoj: Everybody knows who the real culprit was.
Ranjan: The real culprit?

Manoj: Yes. That rogue is roaming freely. Is this not injustice?
Ranjan: Rank injustice. Court judges must worship truth. Justice springs from truth.

Manoj: Sounds good. But is it possible?
Ranjan: How did the king dispense justice in the story-poem we read at school?

Manoj: Tell me about it. I don't remember it.
Ranjan: A king once hosted a feast. He ordered his men to buy the best fish in the kingdom.

Manoj: Must have been a very popular king well-loved by his subjects!
Ranjan: There came a fisherman with a fantastic fish. But the king's servant stopped him at the palace gate.

Manoj: Why was he stopped?
Ranjan: The servant wanted a share.

Manoj: A share in the earning?
Ranjan: Yes. He wanted half of what the king would pay for the fish.

Manoj: Corruption at the palace gate!
Ranjan: The king was fascinated by the fish. He asked what price he should pay. The fisherman asked for a hundred lashes.

Manoj: You mean a hundred whippings? Was he mad?
Ranjan: Even the king thought so.

Manoj: How did the king respond?

Ranjan: After initial reluctance, he ordered his man to deal a hundred floggings.

Manoj: Was the king's order obeyed?
Ranjan: Yes. After fifty floggings the fisherman pleaded with the king to give fifty floggings to the servant.

Manoj: Did he tell the king about the bribe?
Ranjan: Yes, he laid it bare.

Manoj: Was the servant punished?
Ranjan: The servant received fifty lashes. The fisherman was rewarded with a hundred gold coins. The king decreed that the fisherman be given gold coins on the same day every year.

Manoj: The guilty punished and the innocent rewarded!
Ranjan: Yes. The king meted out poetic justice.



సూర్యారావు ఎం.వి
వివేకానంద ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్ ఆఫ్ లాంగ్వేజెస్, రామకృష్ణ మఠం.