



Bama's *Karukku*

Explanations of Chapter-3

Part-4

A lecture by
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The Inter-Caste Trouble Continues



- Skirmishes between the Pallar and the Parayar on many times, usually a petty incident leading to a terrible fight.
- The first fight was because of a ripe banana; Ondiviran, a man from Palla street carting bananas when the Paraya boy Pavulu pulled off two-three fruits and ate them.
- Exchange of abusing words, a fist-fight followed; four Palla boys joined in and beat up Pavalu raining blows upon him.
- The Pallars entered the Paraya quarter with sticks and knives;
- Bama's father Susai and others convinced them to call a meeting to settle peacefully a struggle.
- In a meeting, Pavulu was punished appropriately.

The Inter-Caste Trouble Continues



- There upon, the boys on both sides nursed vengeance.
- After four or five months, a fight erupted in a ration shop between them and the Pallar.
- Bama says, 'that effeminate grandson of Benjamin' made some trouble; the boys challenged each other and flung stones, some Paraya women too joined using idli steamer lid for defence.
- The military man Susai ran fast to the police to report them, but saw some Pallars parading with sickels, climbing onto a well, hid himself.
- As the Pallars disappeared, he raced along the ridge of the field and brought the police; the Palla men fled seeing them.

The Inter-Caste Trouble Continues



- Again, after some peace, when Monangi's son was standing at the oil shop, a few Palla boys beat him up, a real brawl followed.
- Then, when the hostilities were abating a bit, a few Pallars caught hold of a Paraya boy who had gone to the wood, hacked him and buried him there.
- The Paraya men dug up his body and buried at the cemetery.
- Watched out for the a hapless Palla boy who had gone eastward to graze his goats, killed him.
- The police came, dragged away the boys from both castes, shoved them into jail, locked them up.

Reflection on the Inter-Caste Disputes



- The case still goes on with adjournments follow each other.
- Bama wonders what would happen in the end.
- As she says, the boys fight to death one moment; they join together next moment, suddenly, for no reason, they wrestle with each other.
- “A hundred times a second, there are scuffles amongst them. Shameless fellows. Off course, the upper-caste men will laugh at them.” (47)
- “Instead of uniting together in a village of many castes, if they keep challenging each other to fights, what will happen to all these men in the end?” (47)



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