

A DEAD MAN WALKS !

(A Crime Story from Nalgonda District.)

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(A story, generally, means a concoction, an invention, a creation of characters and a plot or an incident moving around them. But this one presented before you is a narration of a man driven to financial stringency with his back to the wall, with a criminal, innovative and scheming bend of mind. Sometimes truth appears stranger than fiction. The proverb – Murder will out, that is, cannot be hidden--- is once again proved by the investigation made by the Police.)

On 10-03-2003 morning the S.I.of Police, Nalgonda I-Town P.S. received a Phone call from the Sarpanch of Kathallagudem village informing that a totally burnt car with a charred dead body inside was found on the outskirts of the village. Immediately the information was passed on to CI of Police, Nalgonda and they rushed to the spot. On the spot they noticed the totally burnt car and the dead body, almost all in the form of a skeleton in the rear seat of the car. On keen observation they found a gold ring with green stone and a burnt piece of Nokia Cell phone lying beside the body and also a copper talisman and except that there was nothing available. On information senior officers reached the spot with a team of Forensic experts from FSL Hyderabad. The FSL team with difficulty collected the bone marrow of the deceased for DNA fingerprint and preserved other remnants for Chemical Examination. The MVI was called to the spot to identify the Engine No. and other details of the car. It was a great mystery and challenge to the Police Department to establish the identity of the deceased and the cause for this ghastly act.

The investigating police team contacted the Fiat show room at Hyderabad and ascertained the owner of the car to be one Guntur Rama Rao, a businessman of Miryalaguda town of Nalgonda District. The relatives of G.Rama Rao were brought to the scene and they identified the gold ring and the cell phone as those of Rama Rao. Basing on the gold ring and cell phone all presumed that the dead body belonged to Rama Rao. CI Nalgonda secured the phone number of Padma w/o Rama Rao at her house and came to know that on 09-03-2003 she went out to Huzurnagar and at 5-30 PM she received a phone call from her husband saying that he was going out of Miryalaguda. She returned at about 8 PM to her house and during early hours at about 1 AM on 10-03-2003 once again she received a phone call from her husband that he would be returning to Miryalaguda shortly and since then there was no contact from him. She also said that in the morning of 10-03-2003 she received a phone call from a woman enquiring about her husband Janaki Ramulu who had gone to the house of Rama Rao to receive some money. CI

Nalgonda also got information that one Janaki Ramulu, an STD booth owner of Edulagudem, Miryalaguda was also missing and who had gone along with G.Rama Rao in the evening of 09-03-2003. Janaki Ramulu's wife informed that 3 years ago her husband gave Rs.50,000/- for a post of sweeper in Guntur Rama Rao's College, but he did not provide a post for her nor returned the amount. When Janaki Ramulu pestered Rama Rao to return the money, he paid Rs.15,000/-. On further demand from Janaki Ramulu, on 09-03-2003 G.Ramarao contacted Janaki Ramulu's wife on phone and asked her to send her husband to his house so that he would refund the balance amount. On that phone call her husband Janaki Ramulu contacted G.Rama Rao who asked him to come to receive the balance amount and he left the house and since then he too was missing. She identified the talisman recovered from the burnt car as that of her husband's when it was shown to her. At this juncture it became necessary to establish the identity of the dead body.

On further information the C.I., Nalgonda went to the Balaji filling station, Tripuraram and got confirmed by the worker there that Guntur Rama Rao had purchased 40 liters of loose petrol and filled the same into two plastic cans each of 20 liters capacity at 2-30 PM on 09-03-2003. The same evening at about 7-00 PM the son and the servant of Guntur Rama Rao's house owner had seen both Guntur Rama Rao and Janaki Ramulu getting into the car and since then both of them were missing.

On the morning of 10-03-2003 the said car was found in a fully burnt condition in Kathallagudam village near Nalgonda with a totally charred dead body in it. Thus it became a question whether the dead body belonged to Guntur Rama Rao or Janaki Ramulu.

In the DNA Finger Print analysis report FSL, Hyderabad opined that the deceased was the biological son of Tejavath Motiya Naik and Tejavath Thulasi, i.e., Janaki Ramulu. In another report it was opined that traces of flammable Hydrocarbon components of mineral oil were found in some of the burnt car materials seized from the burnt car. The Medical Officer who conducted autopsy opined that the death was due to charring of the body.

Guntur Rama Rao, a resident of Miryalaguda town in Nalgonda District was a Commission Agent in grain market yard at Maryalaguda with partnerships in half a dozen rice mills and an Indane Gas Agency at Miryalaguda besides being the Correspondent-cum-Secretary of KNM Degree College, Miryalaguda For nearly 13 years he had been investing huge amounts in share business and had suffered heavy losses. He himself opened a Sub-broker Office in shares at Miryalaguda. But he did not thrive in that. Thus, in all, he incurred a heavy loss to the tune of more than one Crore and a half in the share market.

Moreover he borrowed huge amounts from businessmen, friends and relatives at Miryalaguda and elsewhere at higher rates of interest. His loan amounts accumulated to over Rs.2.50 Crores.

When the creditors mounted pressure on him for refund of their amounts, Guntur Rama Rao started scheming of escaping payment of his debts by faking death. So he planned well in advance by taking LIC Policy for Rs.20 lakhs with an accidental death claim of Rs.30 lakhs on 29-10-2002 and by transferring his two house plots and a house in the name of his minor son through gift deeds at Sub Registrar's Office, Miryalaguda on 22-02-2003.

Earlier Janaki Ramulu had paid him Rs.50,000/- in the name of College Development Fund to Rama Rao seeking a sweeper's post in the KNM.Degree College for his wife. Three years passed since then but the job was not provided and the promise was not fulfilled. When Janaki Ramulu demanded the refund of the amount, Rama Rao agreed to pay him back and asked his wife on phone to send him for receiving the amount.

Janaki Ramulu was chosen for the gruesome scheme because the physical stature of this poor man tallied with Guntur Rama Rao. And the schemer thought that nobody would bother about Janaki Ramulu's missing or even death because he was a poor tribal.

Then the actual implementation of the plan by G.Rama Rao started on 09-03-2003. He bought 40 liters of loose petrol and carried that in two cans. He bought 20 stressnil tablets from a medical shop and mixed them in a water bottle for consumption by Janaki Ramulu. Both G.Rama Rao and Janaki Ramulu began their journey to Hyderabad by road by car. After reaching Abdullapurmet at about 10-30 PM., G.Rama Rao pretended as though he contacted the Section Officer, who was competent to sanction the said sweeper post, on his cell phone and told Janakiramulu that the Section Officer was not available. As the journey to Hyderabad would be fruitless, they started on their return journey to Miryalaguda. During the return journey Guntur Rama Rao made Janaki Ramulu drink two bottles of beer and the stressnil mixed water contained in the bottle. This made Janaki Ramulu unconscious. On the way Guntur Rama Rao shifted Janaki Ramulu to the rear seat of the car. By midnight Guntur Rama Rao drove the car to his pre-selected location on the outskirts of Kathallagudem village and poured petrol from the two plastic cans on Janaki Ramulu and inside the car and set fire to it. At once the car was in flames and Janaki Ramulu's death was instantaneous. As Guntur Rama Rao was near the flames, some of them scorched him. As a result, G.Rama Rao received burn injuries on his left hand, left part of the face and toes of the left foot, which proved his involvement in setting fire to the car. Prior to the burning of the car G.Rama Rao left his

gold ring and cell phone beside the body in order to make every body believe that the dead body lying in the car was his.

But contrary to his scheming the copper talisman worn by Janaki Ramulu and DNA and FP analysis from FSL, Hyderabad proved the death of Janaki Ramuilu and the escape of Guntur Rama Rao as there was no second dead body in the vicinity. The efforts of the Investigating Officer proved successful and the man who committed the crime was apprehended by the Police and now G.Rama Rao, is an under trial.