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## **Legacy** **(A Play in One Act)**

**P R Gopalakrishnan**  
**Kerala.**

### **SCENE I**

*ASHOK'S bedroom. It is about 9 pm. Sitting on a settee ASHOK is reading a newspaper and as his wife RAGI enters and sits on the opposite settee he watches her carefully.*

*Long pause.*

*ASHOK'S face exhibits tension.*

ASHOK: My God! It looks like you have conceived.

*Pause.*

RAGI: Yeah. My family is too poor. Otherwise, I would have left you the moment I found that you are impotent. But I wanted a child. So the adventure.

*ASHOK perspires.*

*Pause.*

It's a blessing for you to have a child to play with.

*Pause.*

Don't worry. I assure you that no one will know that you are not the child's father.

*Long pause.*

ASHOK: How it happened? You approached him or he approached you?

RAGI: I approached him.

ASHOK: Then how would he have taken me?

*Pause.*

RAGI: When a married woman has sex with another man, the man only takes that she is not satisfied with her husband. Never does he take that her husband is impotent.

ASHOK: But how people will take the child if it happens to have the features of its biological father?

RAGI: As long as you accept and love the child no one will have such doubts.

*Pause.*

The man does not belong to here or around. So no one will have doubts about the child's biological father, even if it happens to have resemblances to the man.

*Pause.*

If you are that obsessed with the question we may terminate the pregnancy.

ASHOK: No. I can't allow it.

*Long pause.*

We can give rest to questions. I will accept the child as my own.

*Pause*

Will you continue the relation with the man?

RAGI: No. I had him only for the child.

ASHOK: Can I believe you?

RAGI: Sure.

ASHOK: Then I will never ask for his identity.

RAGI: That's good.

*ASHOK has a blanching face and RAGI a triumphant one.*

## **SCENE II**

*In due course RAGI gives birth to a boy, RISHIKESH, and the whole family celebrates the birth of the first member of its next generation.*

*Six months later. ASHOK'S bedroom. It's 5 pm. RISHIKESH is sleeping and RAGI is lying by him in bed. RAGI opens her mobile phone and sees the following message from ASHOK.*

My dear Ragi,

I don't know whether there is meaning in continuing to address you thus. But I am doing it for the last time.

*RAGI sits up and she is gripped by tension.*

Now I am at a faraway place.

By noon I returned home from office with severe headache and fever. The doors and windows of the house were now closed. And, as I entered the verandah I overheard the merrymaking between you and Arjun from the inside. Soon I left home.

I conclude that you are in liaison with my younger bachelor brother and that he is Rishikesh's biological father.

I feel it is time I gave an end to my meaningless and shameful life. So I go for it.

*RAGI'S tension mounts and her face exhibits it.*

I have no objection at all to your living with Arjun through marriage or otherwise. I am sure he will take care of Rishikesh.

I love Rishikesh that deeply. So, as I leave the world, I request you or rather pray to you that you bring him up without disclosing to him that I am not his biological father. Let me have a son to keep my legacy and to remember me.

God bless you, Rishikesh and Arjun.

Your loving husband.

*RAGI'S eyes are filled with tears.*

***CURTAIN***