

Author's POV:

Two couples, along with their families, reached Trupati. A er the darshan and the Satyanarayan vrath, they returned to the cottage. Taara and Diya were sleeping as they were tired from all the events. Veeru entered the room and saw his sister and his loved sleeping cuddling each other. He went towards them and kissed their foreheads.

"Taara, Diyu, wake up. Have your lunch and then sleep," said Veeru. Taara slowly opened her eyes and stretched her arms lazily. She looked at Veeru, who was busy admiring her. She pecked his lips and said,"What is the time now?"

"2 o'clock," said Veeru."You guys didn't even change your dress." "We are so tired and just landed on the bed a er coming back to the room," Taara said, pouting.

Veeru chuckled, listening to her, and said,"Go and freshen-up. Everyone is waiting for us." Taara nodded her head and tied her into a messy bun. She looked at Diya and told him to wake her up.

Soon, she came out. She got ready in a simple kurti and trousers. By the time she came out, she saw Diya, who was sleeping by keeping her head on Veeru's shoulder. She shook her head and giggled, looking at her sister-in-law.

"Vadina, wake up. We are going to have our lunch. It's okay if you don't want to wake up, but then you'll miss tasting the delicious food," she said, shaking Diya.

"Huh, I'm up. Where is food?" Diya said, opening her eyes. Taara and Veeru burst out laughing, while Diya sat there confused, not understanding what happened. A er some time, she got to know she had been tricked. She started chasing Taara. Both of them were running around the room. Diya stepped on her saree pleats and was about to fall down when Veeru held her at the right time. She closed her eyes, chanting "Lord Krishna's" name.

She slowly opened her eyes and saw her brother glaring at her. She quickly grabbed her clothes and ran to the washroom, making Veeru and Taara chuckle at her antics.

Veeru, Taara, and Diya joined the others. They were having their food while Diya's eyes were searching for someone else.

"He is in the lobby attending a call," said Maya, who was sitting beside Diya.

"Did he have his lunch?" Diya asked Maya.

"No," said Maya. Diya nodded her head and moved to the lobby. She saw Arjun speaking to someone on his mobile. She waited for him to finish the call so that they could have their lunch together.

Arjun finished his call and saw Diya sitting on a chair with a bored expression while scrolling through her mobile.

"Why are you not having lunch with others?" Arjun asked, coming towards her.

"I'm waiting for you so that we can have it together," Diya said, making him smile.

They moved inside and saw everyone sitting a er finishing their lunches. The elderly were sitting and resting, while the others were packing their things as they would leave in the evening.

Maya and Taara served food for them on a plate.

"Where is the other plate?" Diya asked them.

"Both of you have to eat from the same plate," said Maya.

"He will eat all my food," Diya said, glaring at Arjun.

Maya and Taara giggled, listening to her words while Arjun was glaring at her.

"What? I'm saying the truth and I'm not afraid of your glares," Diya said, glaring back at him.

"Both of you do wherever you want, we are leaving." Saying that, Maya dragged Taara with her.

"See, they le because of you," Diya said, glaring at Arjun.

He stood her mouth with a rasgulla and kissed her cheeks and said, "You can fight with me later, but now eat food before I finish the whole food on the plate."

Diya made a pout and started munching on the food angrily, making him chuckle. She glared at him and pinched his thigh, making him wince.

"Ouch, lady, it's hurting yaar," Arjun said, making an irritated face.

"Good, then," Diya said, sticking her tongue out.

A er having their lunch with lots of teasing and fighting over petty things, they moved to their room to pack their luggage.

In Arjun & Diya's room

Arjun was packing both of their bags while Diya was happily playing Candy Crush on her mobile. Arjun looked at her and sighed. It's better to pack alone rather than ask for her help, as she will mess up everything, making his work double.

He packed his bag and kept the bag aside. Then he took her bag and folded her clothes neatly and placed them properly in the bag. He looked around and took her clothes from the hanger and placed them in the bag. He moved to the washroom to see if they le anything. He grabbed their towels and bathrobes and placed them in another bag. A er struggling for half an hour, he completed packing their bags. He jumped onto the bed and slept, keeping his head on her tummy.

"Did you finish packing?" Diya asked, poking his cheeks.

"Hmm," he said, snuggling more into her.

She put her mobile aside and riled his hair, making him grin. Soon, he fell asleep while she lied there admiring him.

It was around 9 pm when they reached Varma Mansion. Some of them le for Murthy Mansion to prepare for Taara's welcome and Diya's "Appaghinhalu." This ceremony takes place at the end of the wedding, where the bride is traditionally handed o the groom and his family.

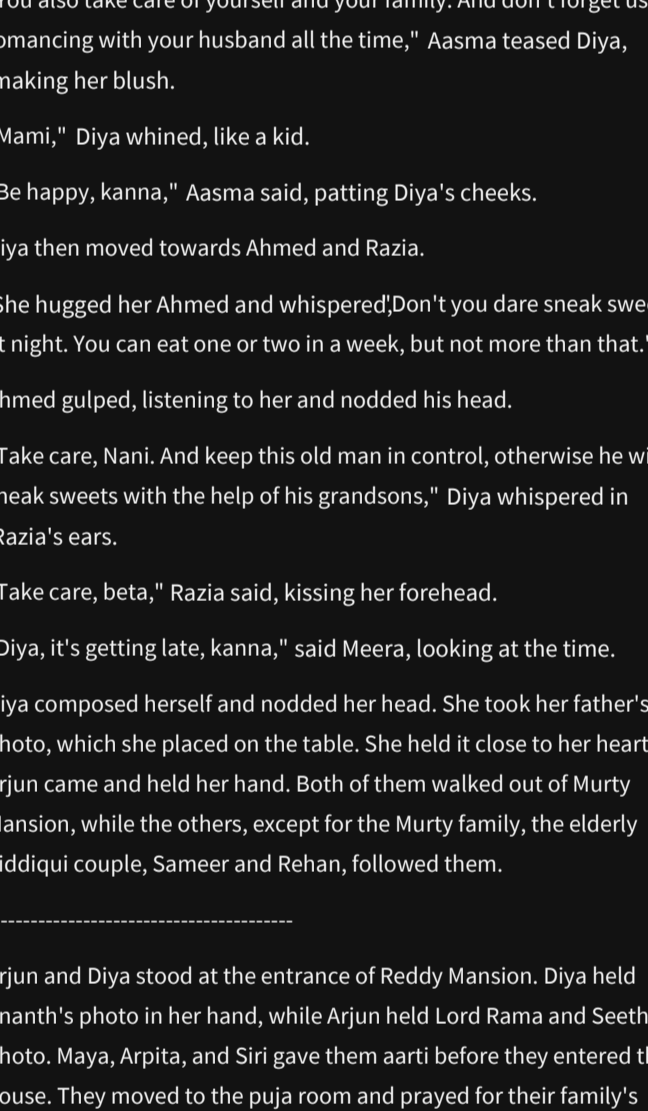
Taara entered Varma Mansion with a heavy heart. She looked around the house where she grew up and had many memories. She moved towards the garden where she usually spent her evening time with her family. She had a lot of memories here. She and her grandfather used to team up and play pranks on her brother and grandmother. She and her father used to do yoga every morning. She and her mother used to gossip there while having juice at night. Taara brimmed in her eyes thinking about all those things.

"You can come here whenever you want, Taara," Veeru said, hugging her from behind.

She turned around and burst into tears. It was not easy to leave everything behind and go to another home. It's not easy to leave the home where you have spent the last 25 years of your life. Soon, she composed herself and moved to change. A er half an hour she came down putting a smile on her face, while Veeru gave a small smile looking at her.

A er completing all the rituals, everyone moved to Murthy Mansion. Taara was hugging Veeru and crying silently while he was consoling her.

Diya sat in her room, disturbed. She looked around, and her heart was becoming heavy with each passing second. She sighed, and packed the necessary things that she had forgotten to pack. Her eyes fell on her father and mother's wedding photo that was hanging on the wall opposite to her bed. She cancelled it lovingly. She then looked at the photo beside it. It was her father's single photo. She was looking at her father's picture with love and crying silently when Arjun entered the room.



(Arjun and Diya's attires)

He hugged her from behind and said, "He is with us, Diyu, in our hearts. He might have le us physically, but his soul will always be here, looking at us and blessing us," and wiped her tears.

"Can you remove that photo from the wall? I can't get there," Diya said, making him smile.

He carefully removed Ananth's photo and handed it to her. She kissed the picture lovingly, making him smile.

"Are you done with your packing and all? Everyone is waiting for us," said Arjun.

Diya nodded her head positively. She gave Ananth's photo to Arjun and moved to wash her face. Soon, both of them came down, holding each other's hands. Diya held Ananth's photo with her right hand while her other hand was holding Arjun's hand.

Veeru and Taara gave Diya's hand to Arjun a er completing all the rituals, while Meera was crying silently in Zaheer's arms, looking at her daughter.

Diya hugged her family and with a heavy heart, she stood in front of Raman and Ragini.

"Please take care of my old lady, Thatha. Make sure that she never skips her medicines," Diya told her grandfather

"You take care of yourself and your family, Diyu. Tell me if he makes you cry, I'll twist his ears and beat him with my belan," Ragini said, making Diya chuckle.

She hugged her grandmother and burst out crying.

"Shh, calm down, Diyu, Ragini, at least you stop crying. See, how she is crying looking at you," Raman said, consoling his wife and his granddaughter.

Veeru hugged Taara, unable to control his tears.

"Diya, you came to meet and meet your family whenever you want. No one will stop you. If you want to come to Murthy Mansion, just tell me, I will come and drop you," said Jai.

Diya smiled, listening to her father-in-law.

She then went towards her Taara and said,"Take care of yourself and our family, Taara. I know they are a bit crazy, and we can't change them too."

Taara chuckled, listening to her while the rest of Murthy's glared at her.

"Of course, we have become crazy by staying with a crazy girl like you," Ragini said, glaring at her granddaughter.

Diya hugged Taara and whispered,"Take care of Anna and yourself. Don't forget that we are in a team. Irritate him to the core, and if you want any ideas, just call me."

"Of course!" Taara said, with a mischievous glint in her eyes.

"What's cooking between both of you?" Veeru asked, getting suspicious of them.

"It's our secret," Diya said, winking at him.

Veeru rolled his eyes at them. He then pulled Diya into a hug and kissed her forehead.

He looked at Arjun and warned him,"If you make her cry, I won't hesitate to punch your handsome face."

Arjun gave him a nervous smile and said,"I promise. I will stand by her side, holding her hand forever."

Veeru nodded his head and looked at Diya, who was nniing cutely.

Diya broke the hug and stood in front of her mother, who was crying in her Mamu's arms.

"Won't you hug your Diya, amma?" Diya asked, making an angry pout.

Zaheer and Meera chuckled, listening to her.

Meera kissed Diya's forehead and hugged her tightly.

"Take care of yourself and everyone else, kanna," said Meera.

"You too. Take care of yourself. Don't take too much stress. Don't drink too much coffee. If you come to know you had more than three cups of coffee in a day, then the consequences won't be good, Mrs. Meera Ananthi Murthy," Diya said, making a stern face.

"Okay, doctor sahiba. You also don't take too much stress. Don't forget to take care of your health by getting involved with your work. Don't skip your meals, otherwise you will become a patient and another doctor should treat you," Meera said, making a stern face.

Diya looked at her, narrowing her eyes, listening to her last line. But seeing her mother's glare, she nodded her head.

She then moved towards her mother's maternal family and hugged everyone.

"So, when are you shing here, mamu?" Diya asked Zaheer.

"Soon. You know, right? It takes some time to sort everything," said Zaheer.

Diya nodded her head and said,"I hope that you will spend time properly at home. If I hear any complaints from anyone, then I'll give you a big injection."

Zaheer made a horrifying face while listening to the word injection and said,"No need. I promise, you won't get any complaints."

"Good," said Diya.

She then went towards Rehan and Sameer and stood in front of them.

"So, Mr. Rehan Siddiqui, when are you going to tell about your girlfriend at home?" Said Diya.

"What? Bhaiyya, this is cheating. You didn't tell me that you have a girlfriend, but you told this panda," Sameer said, whining.

"Stop whining. Did you tell me about your 15th girlfriend to me?" Rehan said, raising his eyebrow at him.

"What are you serious, Sameer? Seriously, 15th girlfriend? By the way, why did you break up with your last girlfriend?" Diya asked sarcastically.

"She was nagging all the time and sticking to me like chewing gum," Sameer said, making a face.

Rehan and Diya burst out laughing while listening to him.

"What happened? Why are you guys laughing like mad people?" Aasma asked, looking at them suspiciously.

"We are talking about your future hubby, Mami," Diya said, with a mischievous smile.

"We need to talk," Aasma said, looking at her sons.

Sameer and Rehan glared at Diya and nodded their heads, looking at Aasma.

"Take care, Mami. Don't stress yourself. So now that everything is sorted, don't keep unnecessary tensions," Diya said, hugging Aasma.

"You also take care of yourself and your family. And don't forget us by romancing with your husband all the time," Aasma teased Diya, making her blush.

"Mami," Diya whined, like a kid.

"Be happy, kanna," Aasma said, patting Diya's cheeks.

Diya then moved towards Ahmed and Razia.

She hugged her Ahmed and whispered,"Don't you dare sneak sweets at night. You can eat one or two in a week, but not more than that."

Ahmed gulped, listening to her and nodded his head.

"Take care, Nani. And keep this old man in control, otherwise he will sneak sweets with the help of his grandsons," Diya whispered in Razia's ears.

"Take care, beta," Razia said, kissing her forehead.

Diya, it's getting late, kanna," said Meera, looking at the time.

Diya composed herself and nodded her head. She took her father's photo, which she placed on the table. She held it close to her heart.

Arjun came and held her hand. Both of them walked out of Murthy Mansion, while the others, except for the Murthy family, the elderly Siddiqui couple, Sameer and Rehan, followed them.

Arjun and Diya stood at the entrance of Reddy Mansion. Diya held Ananth's photo in her hand, while Arjun held Lord Rama and Seetha's photo. Maya, Arpita, and Siri gave them aarti before they entered the house. They moved to the puja room and prayed for their family's well-being. Arjun placed God's photo in the puja room.

"Both of you move to your room and change. We will call you for dinner," said Sakshi.

Diya and Arjun nodded their heads and moved to their room. Arjun hung Ananth's photo on the wall opposite to their bed. Diya moved to change, whereas Arjun put their luggage in their closet, which was brought by the workers to the room. He then grabbed his clothes and moved to another room.

Soon, all of them had dinner and le for their respective rooms, calling o the day as they had receptions the next day.

The next morning, Arjun opened his eyes slowly and felt a weight on him. He saw Diya sleeping almost on him, making him chuckle. He looked at the time and saw it was 6 AM. He made her lie down properly on the bed and got o the bed. He did his morning chores and moved to hit the gym.

A er some time, Diya woke up to not feeling the warmth of a particular man. She opened her eyes and frowned at not seeing him. She looked at the time and saw it was 7 a.m. She sighed and got down o the bed. She did some stretches and set the bed. She moved to the bathroom and did her morning chores. She came out a er having a soothing shower and got ready in a simple kurti and palazzo.

She was drying her hair when she felt someone hugging her from behind.

"You are sweating, you idiot," Diya said, slapping his hand.

"Of course, I came a er doing the gym. So obviously I'll sweat," Arjun said, sarcastically.

Diya glared at him and said,"I just had my shower and came and you are smelling. First, go and have a shower." She dragged him with her and pushed him into the bathroom, making him sigh.

A er 10 minutes, he came out with a towel around his waist. He came and hugged her again.

He kissed her cheeks and said, "Good morning,cookie."

She turned aside and looked at him and said,"Good morning, Mr. Patidev. Will you go and wear your clothes?"

He turned her around and asked,"Why are you getting a ected or what?"

Diya rolled her eyes and said,"Of course not. I won't mind if you roam around like this, but if you don't want to get beaten up with a broom, then get ready quickly."

Arjun nuzzled his nose against her neck and said,"So, are you not getting a ected by this closeness too?"

She composed herself and said,"No."

He stomped his feet and moved to the closet to get ready.

Soon, both of them came down and greeted the family. They performed aarti because they were newlyweds. A er puja, everyone sat in the living room.

"Diya, you have to cook payasam, kanna," said Revathi.

Arjun, who was drinking juice, started coughing, badly listening to his grandmother.

"Ammamma, did you just say that Diya had to cook?" Arjun asked Revathi.

"Yes! Do you have any problem with that?" But she stopped in the middle, realising that Diya didn't know how to cook.

Diya looked down nervously, while Aasma and Zaheer chuckled, looking at her.

"Okay, Diya, you make coffee for us while that idiotic grandson of mine will cook payasam," Revathi said, smirking at Arjun.

"Why would I cook?" Arjun asked, raising his eyebrow at her.

"Because you are her better half," said Sravya.

"And you have to share things between you," said Maya.

"So, she will prepare coffee, and you will prepare payasam," said Nandan.

"This is not fair," Arjun said, pouting.

"All is fair in love and war," said Aashi.

Arjun stomped his feet in anger and moved to the kitchen and shouted, "Cookie, are you coming or not?"

"Go before he comes here and drags you with him," said Ash.

Diya giggled and said,"I'm coming, Arjun."

A er some time, both the husband and wife duo, with the help of Maya, Sravya, Arpita, and Priya, prepared breakfast for everyone.

At first elders sat down to eat breakfast.

"So, what's the menu?" asked Jai and Raghav, ready to attack the food.

"Idli, vada, and upma with peanut chutney, sambar, and payasam," said Maya.

"Come on, serve us fast," said Jai, looking at the dishes as the aroma of sambar hit his nostrils.

A er having breakfast, Diya served coffee for everyone.

"Thank God, you didn't serve them Maggi," Arjun said, poking her cheeks

She swatted his hand and glared at him and said,"Don't forget that you have to eat that Maggi for a lifetime."

"Arey, why will I allow you to take stress, when I'm here?" Arjun said, giving her a nervous smile.

"Good," Diya said, giving him a tight-lipped smile.

The youngsters were having their breakfast when Diya got a call from her mother.

"Hi, amma," Diya chirped.

"Hey, kanna. What are you doing?" asked Meera.

"Having breakfast," Diya said, while eating a spoonful of upma.

"Either you eat or talk. Don't do both at the same time," said Avi, hitting her head, who sat on the right side of her.

Diya pouted, listening to him, and mumbled,"Okay."

"Acha, what did you cook on the first at your in-laws' home?" Meera teased Diya.

"Coffee," Diya said, grabbing another spoon of upma.

"Didn't you prepare payasam?" Meera asked her.

"Your son-in-law has prepared it on my behalf," Diya said, shrugging her shoulders.

"What can I expect more from you?" Meera said, sighing.

"Did you guys have your breakfast?" Diya asked her.

"Just now. Acha, you guys have your breakfast. I'll call you later," said Meera.

Diya cut the call and continued relishing the breakfast. A er having their breakfast, the girls went to the spa to relax themselves.

Hey buddies!!

I'm back! I hope that I'm early this time (chuckling).

How is the update??

Do let me know about your views.

Leaving our home, where we were born, grew up, and have many memories with our family, is hard. I don't know how a girl handles that. She goes to a home where she doesn't even know a minute thing about the people living there. And, as the years pass by, it becomes her home. And for a boy, a person about whom he doesn't know much except a few things comes with him holding his hand. His responsibilities increases, so does the expectations on him. Everything around him changes. It is difficult for him too, to cope with the sudden changes in his life. One should trust and respect each other in a marriage, to make it successful.

A glimpse of past... coming soon.

Keep smiling and take care!

Continue reading next part >