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The Rise of Sivagami I Page 3

BaahubaliBeforeTheBeginning

When he looked back at the contingent, the elephant carrying the

king was already kneeling for his majesty to alight. Kattappa saw his

father jumping down from his horse and hurrying towards the king.

His father kneeled before the king and Maharaja Somadeva climbed

down, stepping on Malayappa's shoulders.

'Hey, you, slave boy.'

Kattappa tensed. He knew there was nothing wrong with being

called a slave boy; after all, that was what he was, but every time he

heard it, it riled him. More than the word 'slave', it was being called

a boy at the age of twenty-two by Bijjala, who was younger to him by

a few months, that upset him more.

Hiding his distaste and putting on an expression of extreme

servitude, he turned towards the voice. Prince Bijjala gestured for

him to come near his horse. Kattappa walked over. He bowed, and

the prince indicated that he should kneel down. People were

watching him.

'Brother, stop. He is elder to you, Prince Mahadeva said in a shrill

voice. Bijjala snickered, 'Slaves don't have any age, or names, for that

matter. They are bound to obey what we say.

(But...

Bijjala's arm shot out and slammed into Kattappa above his left ear.

The world spun around the slave. He had not seen it coming.

'When I ask you to kneel, you have to kneel immediately,' Bijjala

punctuated his order with another slap on Kattappa's cheek.

Kattappa hurriedly knelt down. Bijjala stepped on his lean

shoulders and got down from his horse. Kattappa swayed under

the weight of Bijjala, lost his balance, and fell fl at on the ground

with the prince. There was silence and everyone looked at them.

Prince Mahadeva laughed.

Chapter 2 - Tale Of Kattappa

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