

THE ADVENTURES OF TENALI RAMAN

Episode #9

"Silly Foreigners"

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EXT. KRISHNA DEVA RAYAS PALACE - DAY

Open on long shot of Kings palace. A trumpet sounds.

NARRATOR

A very festive morning in the
splendid Kingdom of Vijayanagara!

SFX

(trumpet) Bwa-ba-da-daaaaaa!

EXT. SQUARE LEADING UP TO KINGS PALACE - DAY

Cut to royal procession centered around an Elephant carrying a covered and decorated Palanquin on its back. The elephants trainer is leading the animal with a pair of cymbals, dancing absurdly. The Elephant follows the dance steps.

They are flanked by guards front and back. Townspeople cheer as they pass and throw flowers towards the procession.

SFX

(crowd) Yaaaaaayyyy!

NARRATOR

Today the beloved King, Krishna
Deva Raya is receiving a visit
from three dignitaries from far
away lands...

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Cut to inside throne room where Krishna Deva Raya is having two servant girls put the last touches on his outfit.

The Rajguru is standing to his right with Tingary and Tenali is on the other side of the throne, holding Sunderi.

Cut to close-up on King as he shouts orders at Rajguru.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA
Everything must be perfect,
understand!?

Cut to Rajguru, who responds arrogantly, gesturing royally to himself, with a sleazy smirk on his face.

RAJGURU
Worry not, my lord...I, the
Minister of Foreign Affairs, have
arranged everything, down to the
smallest detail!

Cut to close-up of Tenali Raman and Sunderi. Both Yawn.

Cut to quick cut of Rajguru shooting Raman a dirty look.

On Trumpeter. He trumpets to signify the foreigners' arrival.

SFX
(trumpeter) Bwaaa-ba-da-daaaaa!!!

Cut to Rajguru; he spins and looks O/S, speaking excitedly.

RAJGURU
Your majesty! They've arrived!

The enormous elephant appears at the opening to the Kings throne room. The insane elephant trainer with the cymbals spins and dances into the room, just ahead of the elephant. The Rajguru spins happily into frame from left, arms extended, an ecstatic grin on his face. He glides right toward trainer. The courtiers cheer enthusiastically.

RAJGURU
Yeahhhhh!

SFX
(courtiers) Yaaaayyy! Horayyyyy!

Cut to close-up of elephant trainer as Rajguru glides into screen from left and puts his arm around him. Rajguru waves his other arm grandiosely towards the scene behind him.

RAJGURU

What an entrance! Ha haaa!

Cut to Raman and Sunderi. Raman looks O/S towards the action casually, looks away, then double takes back to the action, now a look of panic on his face.

Cut to zoom in to close-up of elephant trying to squeeze in. Camera stops on top edge of elephant. The top edge of the throne room entrance is too low for the palanquin, and there is a horrible splintering and cracking sound, as the palanquin hits the top edge of the entrance and begins to break off its support on the elephants back. Shouts of horror and dismay fill the air.

TENALI RAMAN (VO)

Gasp! Rajguru, look out!

SFX

(Shouts of horror and
dismay)

Cut to angle down behind Rajguru as he spins around and looks up at camera, still with his arm around the trainer.

RAJGURU

Eh?

Angle up on Rajguru's POV of Palanquin splintering and tipping off the now bucking elephant. The Palanquin tips and falls down towards camera, filling the screen.

RAJGURU (VO) (CONT'D)

Oh no...No!

Cut to fast zoom directly down on panicking, screaming Rajguru as he puts his arms before his face to try to protect himself. Camera zooms in close then fast cut to-

RAJGURU (CONT'D)

NOOOOOOOOOOOO!-

King, Raman, and Sunderi as they cringe, reacting to the Palanquin crashing on Rajguru O/S.

Cut to Rajguru buried under the broken Palanquin. His legs are sticking out of the bottom of the twisted mess, and one

arm is seen quivering sticking out of one side. Rajguru is heard moaning from underneath the Palanquin.

RAJGURU (VO) (CONT'D)
Oooooohhhhhhhhh.....

Close-up on Tingary; he panics and calls his masters name.

TINGARY
Rajguruji!

Cut to close-up on Tingary trying to pry open the damaged Palanquin door. Rajguru's quivering hand just underneath door.

Suddenly a foot bound in cloth Karate kicks out a hole in the door, kicking Tingary in the face. He flies O/S.

HAIKU
Hiyaaaaaaaaaa!

TINGARY
Oh! Aiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!

Cut to King, Raman and Sunderi reacting with surprise.

KING, RAMAN, SUNDERI
Gasp! Meow!

Cut to partially broken door, which now is completely destroyed by an arm karate chopping it to splinters.

HAIKU
Hiya! Hiya! Hiyaaaaa!

A Japanese Samurai begins to step out of the hole in the Palanquin. Everyone gasps from O/S.

EVERYONE
Gasp!

Cut to close-up of Rajguru's hand as samurai steps on it as he steps out of the Palanquin. The foot then continues O/S.

SFX
(hand being stepped on) Crunch!

RAJGURU
Aaarrgghhhhhh!

Cut to full shot of Samurai standing tall with sword.

Cut back to hole in Palanquin as a Knight steps out of the Palanquin hole in full armor. He has a long blonde mullet and Germanic Eagle insignia on his armor.

Cut to close-up of Rajguru's hand as Knight steps on it with an armor plated foot. Rajguru cries out on pain.

SFX

(hand being stepped on) Crunch!

RAJGURU

Yaaaaaarrgghhhh!

Cut to Raman, who shakes his head with pity for the Rajguru, as Rajguru whimpers in pain from O/S. Sunderi licks herself.

RAJGURU (VO)

Oooooohhhhhhhhh.....

Cut to full shot of Knight standing tall; his mullet flaps behind him in an inexplicable breeze.

Back to hole in Palanquin. A beautiful Nubian Pirate woman leans out of the hole and looks down at Rajguru's quivering hand. The courtiers again gasp from O/S.

EVERYONE

Gasp!

She nimbly leaps out of the Palanquin, avoiding Rajguru's hand. With a swift spin kick she kicks the Palanquin into splinters, which fly in every direction. The courtiers react loudly, amazed. Rajguru is underneath, lying in a heap.

MARINA

Yaaaaaaaaaaaaiiiiiiii!

SFX

(everyone) Gasp! Wow! Whoa! Woooo!

Cut to Tingary, who was lying unconscious in the corner. He comes to, looks O/S and reacts to his masters plight.

TINGARY

Oooohhhhhh....Raj-Rajguruji?

Cut to Tingary's POV of Rajguru lying across the room in a heap, amongst splinters of Palanquin. Marina stands over him.

TINGARY (VO)
RAJGURUJI!

Cut to close-up angle down on Rajguru. He is lying amongst pieces of wood, delirious. He looks around and then up O/S.

RAJGURU
Oooooohhhhhhhhh...

Cut to Rajguru's POV of beautiful Pirate Woman looking down at him kindly. His vision of her blurs and doubles.

MARINA
Are you all right, sir?

On Rajguru. He smiles suavely, even in his horrid state.

RAJGURU
Aaahhh, good lady, now that I am
bathing in your radiant beauty, I
couldn't possibly ask for-

Suddenly Tingary bursts into frame, and grabs Rajguru by the head, attempting to drag him out of the pile of splinters. Instead he only jerks Rajguru's head around, making him look even more foolish in front of Marina.

RAJGURU (CONT'D)
What? No! Begone you wretch!
Aaarrghhhhh!

TINGARY
Oh Master! Don't worry, I'm here
now!

Enraged and embarrassed, Rajguru puts Tingary in a Full Nelson and bites his head.

RAJGURU
Rraarrrrrrrrrr! You'll pay for this
Tingary...with your life!
Yaaaarrrrrrrrr!

Cut to angle up on Marina, who is looking down at the ridiculous action with a confused look on her face.

RAJGURU (VO) (CONT'D)
Rrrrrraaaaaaa! Arrrrrrr-harr-
haaaaa!!

Cut to King and Raman holding Sunderi. The King apologizes.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA
Madam! Allow me to apologize for
this embarrassing disaster!

On Marina. She bows low.

MARINA
Say no more, Your Majesty! May I
introduce my friends?

She rights herself and turns to the Knight and Samurai; she
gestures first to the Samurai.

MARINA (CONT'D)
This is Haiku, The Wandering
Ronin! From the distant island of
Nippon!

The Samurai bows low.

HAIKU
Maharaj...

On Knight.

MARINA (VO)
...and this is Reinhardt the Gold,
from the emerald plains of
Allemania!

The Knight bangs his fist against his chest and bows low.

REINHARDT
I live to serve, My Lord!

On Krishna Devaraya. He throws his arms open happily.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA
And you are the beautiful Marina!

Cut to Marina, who smiles and looks away bashfully as the
King showers her with compliments from O/S.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA (VO) (CONT'D)
World renowned sea Captain and
spice merchant! Welcome to
Vijayanagaraaaaa!

Marina begins to respond when the Rajguru suddenly appears
next to her and attempts to suavely introduce himself.

MARINA
You are too kind, Mahara-

RAJGURU
-and I'm Tattacharya...ahem...The
Rajguru of Vijayanagara...heh heh!

On King and Raman. The King turns red with fury at the
Rajguru's crude behavior. Raman speaks up to try to calm
the situation. Courtiers are laughing from O/S at the
Rajguru.

TENALI RAMAN
My lady...

Full shot on Reinhardt, Haiku and Marina. They look happy
at Raman's suggestion. Marina responds graciously.

TENALI RAMAN (VO) (CONT'D)
The King asks if you would be
interested in a guided tour of our
Kingdom...

MARINA
Oh, thats just fabulous! We
gratefully ac-

She is suddenly interrupted again by the Rajguru, who
slides into frame next to her, offering his services as
tour guide.

RAJGURU
And as Minister of Foreign
Affairs, I, The 'ahem'
Rajguru...will PERSONALLY lead the
tour of my...OUR beautiful
kingdom!

On King, who is now beet red. Raman looks worried.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA

Tatta! This is the end! Not only
will you not lead this tour-

On Rajguru; he cringes at the words the King speaks from
O/S.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA (VO) (CONT'D)
You will personally lead the
groups Elephant! You are now...

On King. He speaks the next words with rage and fury.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA (CONT'D)
ELEPHANT BOY!!!!!!

Cut to close-up of Rajguru. He is shocked.

RAJGURU
Gasp!

Cut to King and Raman. King still looks dead serious, but
Raman is trying to restrain laughter along with the court.

SFX
(restrained laughter)

On Rajguru. He stands tall with arms crossed as everyone
chuckles under their breath from O/S. He speaks
defiantly.

RAJGURU
Maharaj this is an outrage. AN
OUTRAGE! I refuse to accept this
demotion! I invoke Article Five of
Chapter Three of the Royal-

On King. He explodes again. Raman and Sunderi are startled.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA
ELEPHANT BOY!!!!

On Rajguru. He cringes at the Kings latest outburst from
O/S.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA (VO)
You will accept! Or your next job
will be CLEANSING the Elephants
stables!

On King, still red and seething.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA
Raman is now Minister of Foreign
Affairs!

On Rajguru. He speaks with horror and then looks O/S left.

RAJGURU
WHAT!? Raman!? NO! It's not
possible...

Cut to close-up of waist-up Painting of Rajguru on wall; Rajguru is in his familiar serious crossed arms pose and is scowling. Below the painting a plaque reads: "Minister Of Foreign Affairs". Suddenly a servant swiftly removes the painting and replaces it with an identically sized and framed painting of Tenali Raman, in a silly "happy-go-lucky" expression and pose. The court cheers the event from O/S.

SFX
(crowd) Yaaaaayyyy!

On King, Raman, and Marina. The King waves his hand royally and speaks happily of the tour to Marina.

KRISHNA DEVARAYA
Esteemed guests! Please allow
Raman to accompany you on the
tour!

Cut to close-up on Rajguru, seething with fury. He speaks softly to himself; his eyes darting back and forth. Camera pulls out slowly as he speaks, hissing with hatred and rage.

RAJGURU
Oh Jester...I'll make sure this is
a tour you and your new "friends"
never forget...oh yes...ohhhh
yesssssss!

Suddenly a smelly, stained rag, a pair of cymbals and a bamboo baton fly into Rajguru's arms. He looks at them with surprise, then looks up and O/S. Restrained laughter erupts.

INT. PALACE DUNGEON - DAY

Cut to a horrible dungeon passageway, lined on one side with cells containing a variety of weird and dangerous characters. The Rajguru enters the hall, through a metal doorway with a prison guard. Rajguru arrogantly dismisses the guard.

RAJGURU

Ahem! I can take it from here...

The guard leaves, and at the last minute responds.

GUARD

Sure thing, Elephant Boy!

Cut to close-up Rajguru shooting a dirty look O/S.

Cut to shot of hallway from inside a cell. Metal bars separate the cell from hallway. Rajguru moves into frame behind the bars. Rajguru smiles, and a silhouette of a floating, crosslegged figure moves into frame from right.

Cut to full shot of Evil Fakir floating in his cell in a crosslegged meditative pose. Fakir smiles horribly.

FAKIR

Ah! The Rajguru, right on time!
Hee heee!

On Rajguru. He grabs the bars desperately.

RAJGURU

(angry) You know what I want,
Fakir! Gift me this and I'll grant
your freedom!

Close-up on Fakir as he grins horribly, showing rotting, yellow teeth. He raises his hand into frame and gestures.

FAKIR

Very well! Raman will become
Elephant Boy...but I must say the
title suits YOU far better than
The Jester...heeheheeee-

Cut to Rajguru looking angrily through the bars and still gripping the bars as Fakir laughs from O/S.

Cut to extreme close-up on Fakir's teeth as he laughs even harder. Tiny worms are crawling through his teeth and gums.

FAKIR (CONT'D)

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha haaaaaaa!

Cut to Rajguru still gripping the bars but now looking afraid. He backs away and out of frame as Fakir laughs O/S.

EXT. PALACE BAZAAR - DAY

Cut to long shot of coverless palanquin with Parasol, on top of a huge Elephant. Raman, Sunderi, and Foreigners sit in the Palanquin. The Elephant holds a palm frond in his mouth. Surrounding scene are many onlookers. Rajguru stands before the animal holding the cymbals and baton, and he is wearing the stained, smelly headwrap. Trumpets sound and the crowd cheers. Tingary stands with him, also with smelly turban.

SFX

(Ceremonial Trumpets)

Cut to close-up on Rajguru and Tingary. Rajguru smiles wickedly and laughs. But then he is startled by a force from O/S. He reacts with surprise.

RAJGURU

Hee hee hee-ow! Owwwwww!

Cut to side shot of the Elephant slapping him on the backside with his trunk, urging him to get a move on. Rajguru begins walking, slapping the cymbals together, as the crowd cheers.

SFX

(crowd) Yaaaaayyyyyyy!

EXT. PALANQUIN ATOP ELEPHANT - DAY

Cut to Raman lounging in the Palanquin with his feet up. The Foreigners are sitting next to him smiling and waving.

RAMAN

This is the Palace Bazaar...

Cut to long shot of Elephant walking through crowded bazaar. Raman is seen waving his arm over the scene from palanquin.

RAMAN (VO)

Where all of our many spices and
other treasures are sold!

Suddenly the marketplace begins shaking as if in an
earthquake; people are panicking.

Cut to Elephant with Raman's Palanquin trying to keep its
balance as the ground underneath it shakes.

Cut to close-up of a steel door covering a pit in the stone
flooring of the bazaar. It begins to bend upwards as if
being pushed up from the inside. The ground continues to
shake.

Quick cut on Raman. He looks down and O/S in panic.

Quick cut on Rajguru with an insanely happy look on his
face.

Cut to steel door covering as it explodes upwards; shards
of steel fly in all directions. Smoke billows from the
hole.

Suddenly the Fakir levitates out of the smoking hole, in
the crosslegged lotus position, smiling serenely and eyes
closed.

Cut to close-up of the Fakirs eyes. They open and are
brown, but then when he utters Raman's name they turn fire
red.

FAKIR

Raman!

Cut to Raman and Foreigners in the Palanquin. Raman warns
the startled foreigners. The Knight and Ronin draw their
swords.

TENALI RAMAN

The Evil Fakir! He's escaped from
our darkest dungeon!

Cut to Fakir as he spins, still levitating, to spot Haiku
O/S. He speaks, then blasts an electrical power beam O/S.

FAKIR

First the Silly Foreigners! Ha
haaa!

Cut to Rajguru and Tingary. Rajguru is laughing and clapping his hands, and Tingary, terrified, is cringing at his feet. The electrical beam strikes Tingary, and envelopes him in electricity. The Rajguru backs away in horror.

Full shot on Tingary as he suddenly transforms into a lion.

On Raman and the Foreigners in the Palanquin.

TENALI RAMAN

Tingary has been transformed into
a Blonde Lion!

Close-up on Reinhardt. He strokes his blonde mullet.

REINHARDT

His blonde mane is nothing
compared to mine!

On the Samurai. He looks O/S with a determined expression.

HAIKU

I'll handle this...

Cut to side shot of Samurai leaping out of the Palanquin in a forward somersault and landing nimbly on the ground.

Cut to the Lion as it turns and roars, poised for battle.

Cut to Samurai as he goes into several ceremonial sword moves (moves sword slowly before him, eyes thinning, swings sword side to side, and then brings it down straight before him.

HAIKU (CONT'D)

Prepare to die, monster!

Cut to side shot of Lion as he attacks Haiku. Haiku tries to block the lions attack with his sword, but the cat bats the sword out of his hands with a sweep of his giant claw.

Cut to side shot of Haiku running across screen from right to left with the cat chasing him and nipping at his buttocks.

HAIKU (CONT'D)

Aiieee! Aiieee! Aiieee!

LION

Rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Suddenly Marina's voice distracts the lion from O/S and the creature skids to a halt and looks toward camera.

MARINA

Here Kitty, Kitty!

Cut to Lion's POV of Marina standing before camera for a beat and then spinning into a 360 degree spin kick directly at camera; as kick hits camera screen fills with flash frame.

Cut to Lion, knocked out, flying in held pose through air. Suddenly, in mid-air, the lion transforms back into Timgary.

Cut to the Fakir, he spins, enraged, and shoots an electricity beam O/S towards Marina.

Cut to Marina cartwheeling out of path of the electric beam.

Cut to the Fakir spinning around toward camera; a crazed look in his eyes. His hands are crackling with electrical energy.

FAKIR

RAMAN! Where are you...

Cut to fast zoom in on Raman and Reinhardt, hiding behind a fruitstand. Camera veers to Raman and holds on close-up; Raman gulps with fear.

RAMAN

Gulp!

Cut to zoom in on Rajguru; he is smiling with evil joy.

RAJGURU

ELEPHANT BOY!!!!

Cut to Fakir floating in lotus position towards camera, laughing insanely, both hands enveloped in electrical energy. He shoots an electrical beam directly at camera; the energy fills screen.

FAKIR

HA HA HA HA HA HA HAAAA!!!

Cut to the beam flying towards the group from O/S right. Reinhardt blocks the beam with his shield and the energy ricochets off of the shield and flies O/S left.

Cut to fast zoom on Rajguru looking horrified. The beam hits him directly in the face and knocks him O/S.

Cut to Raman and Reinhardt behind fruitstand. Reinhardt leaps out from behind stand wielding his sword and shield.

REINHARDT

I will stop this demon!

Close-up on Reinhardt. He grins suavely at camera. His sword blade moves into frame in front of his face and glitters. His mullet is seen clearly flapping behind him.

REINHARDT (CONT'D)

With my razor sharp blade!

Cut to Fakir flying through the air as he points both hands O/S and fires a bolt of electric energy.

FAKIR

Fool!

Cut to Reinhardt turning left towards camera behind him, his mullet flapping, as energy beam enters frame from right.

Cut to close-up of energy beam slicing off Reinhardts mullet in slow-motion.

Cut to regular speed close-up of Reinhardt shrieking in agony

REINHARDT

AAIIIIEEEEEEEE!!!

Cut to Raman peering out from behind fruit stand. Marina pops her head up next to him; she looks horrified and dismayed.

MARINA

Oh no! NO!

Cut to Reinhardt kneeling on ground, hunched over, shivering, and holding his shorn mullet in his hands. He is crying.

MARINA (VO) (CONT'D)
Poor Reinhardt!

REINHARDT
Meine Mullet!

Cut to Reinhardt falling over on his side, crying in anguish.

REINHARDT (CONT'D)
(crying in anguish)

On Raman and Marina. Haiku pops his head up next to them. He looks terrible; his clothes are ripped, his hair disheveled. Suddenly an electricity beam flies in and almost hits Haiku into the head, forcing him to duck again behind the fruit stand. Marina then turns to Raman and yells in terror.

MARINA
He's unstoppable!

Cut to close-up on Raman. He speaks with conviction and then moves swiftly O/S.

TENALI RAMAN
There's only one chance!

Cut to Raman running behind a giant clay pot, then a beat later reappearing from behind pot wearing a Fakirs outfit, and holding a trumpet and wicker basket.

Cut to side shot of Raman sitting crosslegged with the basket before him. He begins to play the trumpet. A rope begins moving stiffly out of the basket, and continues upwards.

Cut to the Fakir, hands still bristling with electricity. He turns and looks O/S in the direction of the music.

FAKIR
EH?

Cut to close-up on Fakirs eyes. His eyeballs turn into two stiff vertical ropes.

FAKIR (CONT'D)

Ahhhh...

Cut to Fakir levitating swiftly toward camera, mesmerized. The rope is seen in the foreground on right side of screen.

Cut to the Fakir suddenly climbing the vertical rope. Raman begins playing more feverishly. The rope then begins rising out of the basket and completely into the air.

MARINA (VO)

Raman has hypnotized the Fakir!

Cut to angle up of Fakir high in the air climbing the floating strand of rope. The more he climbs, the more the rope moves upwards, so he continues climbing in place.

Cut back to side shot of Raman playing the trumpet. The Foreigners are standing next to him. Reinhardt now has a long strand of Jasmine flowers attached to the back of his head to replace the mullet.

REINHARDT

Raman, du bist eine genius!

Cut to close-up of Raman. He stops playing and tosses the trumpet behind him and O/S, then responds happily.

TENALI RAMAN

Thank you my friend!

EXT. EARTHS OUTER ATMOSPHERE - DAY

Cut to the Fakir climbing the levitating rope, with earth far below, and India clearly visible. The rope suddenly drops and the Fakir drops with it, screaming.

FAKIR

Huff..Huff..Huh? Ahh!
Aiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!!!

Cut back to Raman and the Foreigners. Raman is back in his Brahmins outfit. They are laughing about the Fakir.

HAIKU

I can't believe The Fakir fell for
that!

TENALI RAMAN

It was nothing, just an old trick
my Grandfather taught me!

MARINA

Hey, what happened to the Rajguru?

Suddenly they all hear a strange trumpeting sound, and turn
and look in the direction of the sound.

RAJGURU

(Trumpeting)

Cut to Rajguru stomping around the marketplace on all
fours, acting like an elephant. He is even mimicking a
trunk with one of his arms. Townspeople look on with
shock and curiosity.

TENALI RAMAN (VO)

I suppose the Fakir wanted to turn
me into a REAL Elephant Boy!

Cut to close-up on Raman and the foreigners. Marina speaks
and they all laugh in response.

MARINA

Eeewww! One Elephant Boy is more
than enough, don't you think?

SFX

(Raman and foreigners
laugh)

Close-up on Raman. He winks at the camera. Iris out on
Raman.

THE END