**KANYASULKAM**

**-Gurajada Appa Rao**

**Q. Write the summary of Act I & II of the one-act play “Knaysulkam”**

The one-act play “Kanyasulkam” is written by Gurajada Appa Rao. It is the first Telugu play to deal with social issues.  It is translated into English by C. Vijayasree and T. Vijayakumar. The play portrays the practice of kanyasulkam which was common among the Brahmins in the Telugu speaking area of southern India. The play also depicts the objections to widow re-marriages and hatred towards English education

The play takes place in a village called ‘Bonkuladibba’ near Vijayanagaram. The lead character in the play is Girisam. He is an English educated man. His life is full of debts. He used to live in the house of putakoolamma.  She is a widow. He goes to Venkatesam’s native place as his teacher to teach him English. In the mean time he enjoys with Mahuravani. Maduravani is a prostitute. She is the muse of Girisam in the beginning of the play and that of Ramappa panthulu in the rest of the play

Agnihotravadhanulu is a key role player in the play. He is an egoistic Brahmin. He rudely slams his food plate on the face of his young widowed daughter when she objects the early marriage of her sister to an old man. Parents in those days sell their pre-pubescent daughters to old men for money which refers to be Kanyasulkam. The writer strongly blames this evil practice in the Indian society

**2. Q. Sketch the character of Girisam in the play “Kanyasulkam”**

Girisam is a lead character in the play “Kanyasulkam”. He is a very clever young man. He desires for easy money. He tells lies very easily. He stays with a boarding house widow. He borrows money from others and spends on dancing girls. No one is left in the town to cheat and borrow money. He claims to be an educationist. He wins the favour of Madhuravani with his skilful conversation. Madhuravani is a young prostitute. She is beautiful. She likes Girisam more than the boarding widow.

Girisam enters as tuition teacher to Venkatesam, the son of Agnihotravdhanulu. What he teaches Venkatesam is nothing but smoking cigars. He goes to Venkatesam’s village to escape from his creditors. It helps him to pass time with free boarding and lodging. When Venkamma requests Girisam to speak to her son Venkatesam in English, he said ‘Twinkle, Twinkle little star, How I wonder what you are!’ . Venkatesam replies ‘There is a white man in the tent’

Girisam shows another angle in his character. When he sees the young widow Butchamma, he makes his plan to make her his own, at least for some time. He gives a long lecture to Venkatesam on the necessity of child marriages. He says that it is a new discovery to get young girls married to old men. He makes a satire on politics. Unless one changes one’s opinions from time to time, one cannot become a politician.