

Chewers by Masticadores

Editor: Nolcha Fox// Director of Masticadores: J Re Crivello

“The Price of Greed” by Naramsetty Umamaheswara Rao

[Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com.](#)

translated by Johnny Takkedasila

Krishnaiah, a small vendor from Amaravati, sells samosas and vadas for living. His wife used to make them at home, and he carries them in a basket, sells them in the streets and at the bus stand. But Krishnaiah was greedy. He always bought low-quality ingredients. Even when his wife protested he never cared.

One day, he fell ill and could not go out. Since the food would spoil by the next day, he called his son, Gopi, an eighth-grade student.

“Take the basket and sell everything. Bring back the money. And listen carefully — do not eat anything from the basket. If you are hungry, buy something else,” said Krishnaiah.

Gopi walked through the streets, calling out to customers. Slowly, he sold most of the snacks. As the day went on, he became hungry. Remembering his father’s words, he did not eat from the basket. Instead, he bought some sweets from a vendor.

That evening, Gopi went home and gave the money to his father. But before going to bed, he felt sick. His stomach started to hurt and soon, he started vomiting and had diarrhea.

“He spent the whole day in the sun and worked hard. That’s why this happened,” Krishnaiah assured his wife.

But as Gopi’s condition worsened, his mother panicked. Fearing he might need urgent medical attention, she rushed him to the hospital.

After examining him, the doctor said, “Your son has food poisoning. The food he ate was adulterated. Don’t worry —he’ll recover with medicine.”

The Doctor wrote a prescription and asked Gopi, “What did you eat today?”

“I had the lunch my mother prepared for me. In the evening, I ate some sweets,” Gopi replied.

The doctor nodded knowingly. “That’s the cause of your illness. Adulterated flour, artificial colors, and repeated use of the same cooking oil can make people sick.”

Gopi’s mother collected the medicines, and a nurse gave him an injection. As they were leaving, Gopi suddenly pointed at a familiar face.

“Mom, I bought the sweets from that vendor,” he said.

His mother marched up to the vendor, her face filled with anger. “How can you risk children’s health just for money? My son got sick because of your adulterated sweets! He suffered from stomach pain, vomiting, and diarrhea. Don’t you have any shame? Pay for our hospital expenses!”, she said.

Hearing her loud accusations, a crowd gathered. Some people, furious, began scolding the vendor.

But the sweet seller recognized Gopi and snapped back, “Wait a minute! Why are you yelling at me? You also sell adulterated food —samosas and vadas made with cheap ingredients! My children ate them and got sick too. That’s why I’m here! Will you pay for my hospital bills? Why is it wrong when I do it but acceptable when you do?”

The crowd murmured in dissatisfaction. Some shook their heads and said, “You’re both playing with people’s health for money! Do you even have a conscience?”

A nurse quickly informed the doctor about the commotion. He walked up to them and said sternly, “You are both guilty. Just like your children got sick today, many others suffer because of adulterated food. We see cases like this every day. If we catch you selling low-

quality food again, we will report to the authorities. From now on, use fresh ingredients and prepare food hygienically.”

That night, Gopi couldn't sleep. His father's actions troubled him deeply. He realized that selling adulterated food was not just wrong but a crime. He remembered learning in school that if someone noticed such practices, they should report it to the municipal office.

The next morning, instead of going to school, Gopi went straight to the municipal office. He explained everything that had happened and filed a complaint.



His actions had an immediate impact. The Amaravati Municipality summoned all food vendors and issued strict warnings.

When Krishnaiah was called in, an officer reprimanded him, saying, “Look at your son and feel ashamed! He is just a child, yet he understands responsibility toward society better than you do. Also children belong in school, not at work. Forcing them into labor is a crime. If this happens again, I will have no choice but to file a case against you.”

From that day on, Krishnaiah changed his ways. He started using only fresh, high-quality ingredients to make samosas.


Gopi's courage and honesty were appreciated not only by his parents but also by his teachers and classmates at school.

Copyright © 2025 Naramsetty Umamaheswara Rao and Johny Takkedasila
All Rights Reserved

© 20 JUNE, 2025 23 MARCH, 2025 
CRAZY4YARN2  SHORT FICTION 
CHEATING, CONSEQUENCES, FAMILY, GREED

One thought on ““The Price of Greed” by Naramsetty Umamaheswara Rao”

1. Sadje

20 June, 2025 at 3:51 pm  Reply

Great story