

## SIGNIFICANCE AND PRECIOUS GEMS OF VALUES AND WISDOM THAT THE RAMAYANA'S SUNDERKAND HAVE

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### Abstract

For millions of people around the world, the Ramayana by Valmiki who is regarded as Adikavi literally means 'the first poet' is a magnificent expression of his sublime thoughts. It inspires people with eternal inspiration, salutary ideas and ethics. It transcends the constraints of time, place and situation. It offers a universal appeal to people of various linguistic backgrounds, national origins, and religious convictions. In the Ramayana's Sunderkand, the ocean of beauty is striking. Beauty of strong will power, beauty of Sita's chastity, beauty of marital relationship between Ram and Sita, beauty of work accomplishment through enthusiasm, beauty of Pushpak Vimana, beauty of Valmiki's poetry and most importantly beauty of Hanuman's wisdom. In this study it is depicted that the Ramayana's Sunderkand is a treasure house of beauty and knowledge. It will increase the passionate literature lovers to explore the Ramayana from new and different perspective.

**Keywords:** Anger, Arrogance, Beauty, Enthusiasm, Ideal, Will-power, Wisdom.

## INTRODUCTION

Valmiki's Ramayana occupies highest place among the epics of high quality in different languages of the world. The Ramayana is a mirror of ancient civilization and culture. Every character of the Ramayana represents an ideal as Ram is an ideal brother, friend, student, husband, son and an ideal emperor. Lakshman is an example for the world of an ideal brother who is always with his elder brother in loss and gain, in sorrow and happiness, whether he is in Ayodhya or in exile. Bharat is an ideal brother who renounces/stumbles upon the Chakraborty Empire for the sake of his elder brother Ram. Sita is an ideal wife who is attached to her husband by mind, word and deed. Ravana and Bali are such characters who flourish and prosper in the beginning, but in the end, they must reap the fruits of their deeds. The Ramayana is an epic full of ethics and educative ideas for the character-building of youth. Valmiki's Ramayana all kands are either based on incidents or places like Baalkand and Youdhkand are incident oriented. Ayodhyakand, Aranyakand and Kishkindhakand have been named after places. But Sunderkand is neither based on incident nor place. This kand is Sunderkand because in Sunderkand, the sea of beauty is at its peak. The poet's poetry has reached its zenith in Sunderkand. The valour, might and splendour of Hanuman has been depicted very beautifully throughout Sunderkand. Burma Historical Commission Chairman U. Thein Hen made a statement:

“Ramayana is not only a literary treasure but also a source of ennobling influence of the relationship of men as parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, relations and friends, teachers and pupils and rulers and the ruled.” [1]

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESENT STUDY**

Valmiki's Ramayana gives every detail regarding how a person should live his life with smile, ease, patience and wisdom. The Ramayana is one such scripture that offers a basis for the formation of values in our society over the ages. The present study will be useful to everyone in constructing values especially among youth. The appropriate way to live in society requires adherence to certain values. I have attempted to convey the precious pearls of values/ethics and wisdom found in Sunderkand of the Ramayana through my study in my research.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This paper used a qualitative approach of research. Primary and secondary sources are used to complete the research paper. 'Srimadvalmiki Ramayana' by Dwarka Prasad Sharma (Translator), Ramnarayan Lal (Publisher), Allahabad, 1927 served as the primary source, while secondary materials were taken from library books, internet and journals. The researcher used research techniques as: narrative analysis, content analysis and creative writing as a research method as well as internet-based research. Pertinent and appropriate reading materials were also acquired, critically analysed, academically appraised, and the significance of the findings guided this study.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Following are the main objectives of the study:

- To study the moral and social values of the verses inherent in Valmiki's Ramayana's Sunderkand.
- To study the marital and aesthetic values inherent in Valmiki's Ramayana's Sunderkand.
- To study the ancient engineering of Pushpak Vimana and some geographical facts in The Ramayana's Sunderkand.

## **HANUMAN'S WISDOM**

Hanuman request to "credentials" from Ram before departing on his quest to find Sita. If a messenger requests for credentials it shows that he is truly a messenger. There is a need to think about that as human beings what are our credentials? Our most important single credential is our humanity, human feelings, and humanness. When we forget this, we become lost in the madding multitude of the world. No matter how basic the task is, we are not able to complete it. Ram gives 'ring' as a credential to Hanuman, having in possession of 'Lord's ring', Hanuman represents an ideal human being having humanity, human heart, human feelings, human mind, and humanness. When crossing the ocean to reach Lanka Hanuman secures this ring in his mouth. Hanuman's this act signifies that do not waste energy talking about action alone. By placing the seal in his mouth, Hanuman proves his confidence,

determination, and preparedness to complete the mission for which he has deployed. Spiritually speaking, having the Lord's ring in the mouth pertains to 'remembering and chanting of God's name.' But we should also notice that Hanuman does not just do that, he is also working, acting and flying at the speed of wind while crossing the ocean and does not open his mouth until meets Sita in Lanka.

## **STRONG WILLPOWER, KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM**

Through strong will-power, knowledge and wisdom man can also accomplish task that seem unattainable.

दुष्करं निष्प्रति द्वंद्वम् चिकीर्षन्कर्म वानरः ।

समुद्ग्रशिरोग्रीवो गवाम् पतिरिवाऽऽवभौ । [2]

Hanuman became resplendent like a Taurus, without rivals or hindrances, raising his head and neck, eager to carry out such austere task. Taurus are trustworthy, intelligent, tenacious, down- to-earth, meticulous exactly like Hanuman. When he is given a task, he focuses on it like an eagle on a prey. When a person is tenacious, no hindrances can impede him/her. We will undoubtedly succeed if we have faith in ourselves and maintain a focus on our goal. Always follow the path of righteousness. Righteousness and unrighteousness are not the products of the mind. They are the basic quality of a human mind. A fearless mind with a strong will- power is a righteous mind and a fearful mind with a weak will is an unrighteous mind. The strong and powerful wind of will power, knowledge and wisdom can dispel the clouds of ignorance and delusion. The more knowledge we acquire and the more chewing we do, the wiser we become. Wisdom is digested knowledge that has become part of our being. Like blood running through our body, wisdom runs through our soul and entire system. "This is why when someone accomplishes his/her life mission - the entire pattern of human life is changed. For, life is one, and we all are interconnected. We are one big family. Your accomplishment - no matter how negligible and unimportant it may seem to you - not only helps me, but also helps the rest of humanity." [3]

## **HOW TO CONTROL RAGE**

"Krodha ('anger') is excessive mental turmoil on account of the obstacles in the gratification of some desire; it is manifestation of the quality of tamas (dark, negative, destructive) an undesirable psychological state." [4] In fits of rage people even kill their elders, use derogatory and offensive language to others. It has clearly stated in Ramayana:

यः समुत्पतितं क्रोधं क्षमयैव निरस्यति।

यथोरगस्त्वचं जीर्णं स वै पुरुष उच्यते॥ [5]

Only that person deserves to be called a man who, when anger arises, overcomes it with forgiveness. Forgiveness is a powerful weapon. The consequences of anger are long lasting. Anger becomes destructive and brings problems in personal relationships, at working place and in the overall quality of life when anger is uncontrolled. It takes us just a second to throw a stone into a pond of water, but the ripples it causes take some time to calm down. In the same way, it is easy to lose one's temper in a second, but the repercussions might have long lasting.

### **ENTHUSIASM: THE ROOT OF WORK ACCOMPLISHMENT**

In Sunderkand, it has mentioned that enthusiasm is the root of work accomplishment and source of ultimate contentment /ecstasy. An enthusiastic man is always motivated work hard and also entails demonstrating interest in day- to- day tasks. Enthusiastic people have a great desire to pursue something and will not give up until their dream or task is completed. Even when the cash incentives are meagre, enthusiastic people work with zeal and passion. They possess an innate motivation that drives them forward spurs them old forward. Ralph Waldo Emerson prominent American essayist of 19th century had said in one of his essay 'Circles', "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm". When pursuing a goal, enthusiasm is essential because it motivates to come up with ideas, make choices, and take actions that will result in achievement.

### **CONJUGAL LOVE**

"Marriage is regarded to be a sacrament by Hindus, rather than a form of social contract, since they believe that all men and women are created to be parents, and practice dharma together, as ordained by the Vedas". [6] The Ramayana serves as the foundation for Indian life values. Reciprocal love between Ram and Sita is an example of ideal married life. Sri Aurobindo writes on his book 'Foundation of Indian Culture': "All the characters are intensely real, human, and alive to the Indian mind. The idealism of characters like Ram, Sita is no pale and vapid unreality, they are vivid with the truth of the ideal life." Sita ardently loves her husband, gives up all comforts of palace, goes happily alongwith her husband to deserted forest, feels satisfied by eating fruits and serves her husband. She is content even in the hardships of the forest because she is with her husband. After the abduction of Sita by Ravana, Ram burns in separation from his wife as the volcanic mountain always keeps on burning and trembles with sadness as the mountain peaks shudder in the presence of powerful earthquake.

शक्या लोभयितुं नाहमैश्वर्येण धनेन वा।

अनन्या राघवेणाहं भास्करेण प्रभा यथा। [7]

“Sita Rama’s consort is the personification of Shree, the sum total of all of life’s ingredients. Shree is wealth, prosperity, glory, social status, auspiciousness, honour, health, authority and much more”. [8]

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MESSENGER

In Sunderkand, it has clearly stated that what should be the responsibilities of a messenger.

भूताश्चार्य विपद्यंते देशकालविरोधिताः।

विकल्वं दूतमासाद्य तमः सूर्योदये यथा॥[9]

The messenger who acts against the country and time, he destroys the work in the same manner as the sun dispels darkness. It is the responsibility of the messenger to put the national interest ahead of his or her own and to comprehend the sensitivity of time and circumstances.

अर्थानर्थान्तरे बुद्धिर्निश्चिताऽपि न शोभते।

घातयन्ति हि कार्याणि दूताः पंडितमानिनः॥ [10]

Even after being determined about the duty, the task is not accomplished by such messenger who is arrogant about his intelligence and arrogance causes him to ruin his all efforts. Although Ravana was immensely intelligent, his ego overpowered him. He did not put his understanding of the Vedas and Shastras into action. It is due to his arrogance/ego that brought destruction to him and his clan. The messenger who completes many other duties by finishing the main task first and not interfering with the main assignment can be regarded to be able to work. When the two headed serpent of arrogance and envy raises its hoods, the humanity within us shrinks. And the very powers that were meant to be of assistance to us likely to endanger us. When we think that we, alone, are right, and all others are wrong is our ahamkara /ego /arrogance.

## PUSHPAKA VIMANA

Hanuman saw a big Pushpak Vimana (airplane) that was bigger than big buildings in Lanka as described in the following verses:

कृताश्च वैडर्यमया विहङ्गाः

रूप्यप्रवालैश्च तथा विहङ्गाः।

चित्राश्च नानावसुभिर्भुजङ्गा

जात्यानुरूपास्तुरगाःशुभाङ्गाः॥

प्रवालजाम्बूनदपुष्पपक्षाः

सलीलमावर्जितजिह्वपक्षाः।

कामस्य साक्षादिव भान्ति पक्षाः

कृता विहङ्गाःसुमुखाः सुरक्षाः॥ [11]

As directed by its owner, this Pushpak Vimana used to arrive at the intended location quickly. It moved as quickly as the wind. Nobody could stop it once it got going. Pushpak Vimana used to move according to the mind. It could be unimaginable, but 40-50 years ago. In the present time, modern technology sees it as a challenge. Today, voice-controlled home appliances, mobile phones, personal computers, televisions, laptops are already being sold in the market. The Pushpak Vimana of Ravana is described by Manatha Nath Dutt, “The Pushpaka Vimana that resembles the Sun and belongs to my brother was brought by the powerful Ravana; that aerial and excellent Vimana going everywhere at will...that chariot resembling a bright cloud in the sky...and the king [Rama] got in, and the excellent chariot at the command of the Raghira, rose up into the higher atmosphere”. [12]

### **CERTAIN GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS**

Certain geographical truths as the sea rising on the full moon day and the globe being encircled by four oceans, were described in the Ramayana long before geographers, scientists, geologists. When the earth, moon, and sun align during a full moon, their combined gravitational forces produce these stronger tides known as ‘spring tides’. Historically, there are four oceans: the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Arctic. “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officials said the federal agency recognised the body as the fifth ocean in 1999, when the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approved the name Southern Ocean”. [13]

### **THE OCEAN OF BEAUTY**

In Sunderkand, the ocean of beauty is churning. The poetry of the poet, Sita's chastity and beauty, Sita's acrimonious reply to Ravana's temptations, the grandeur of Lanka and its Ashokvatika and the valour of Hanuman have all been well portrayed by Valmiki. Sita's qualities as chastity and beauty have been depicted beautifully. Sita's incisive retort to Ravana's enticements is a great lesson for an evil person like Ravana. Valmiki's depiction of Sita's anguish in Lanka is heart-wrenching. It teaches us how courageously a woman resists evil Ravana's temptations by upholding her chastity and brings honour to her family and country. In Sunderkand, heroic glory of Hanuman has been depicted in heroic light.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Ramayana is valued for its ideals. We see the wisdom, valour, and enthusiasm of Hanuman in Sunderkand, his finding of Sita teaches us that a tenacious person is able to complete even the most herculean task. This study teaches us that we should have strong will-

power, determination, and enthusiasm for work accomplishment, try to overcome anger with forgiveness, never be an arrogant / egoist and most importantly to be a human being having humanity, human heart, human feelings, human mind, and humanness. Temptations offered by Ravana to Sita are symbolic to various baits that distract our minds from the righteous path. Sita is held an epitome of all ideals of womanhood.

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