



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
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DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS & COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING

III YEAR/ VI SEMESTER

19HST105 ESSENCE OF INDIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

UNIT 2 INDIAN LITERATURE, CULTURE, TRADITION, AND PRACTICES
the Ramayana.



THE RAMAYANA

The Ramayana by the sage Valmiki is one of the great epics of the Sanskrit language, and is dated to approximately 200 B.C.E. There are many version of Ramayana in Indian language beside Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain adaptation. There are also Cambodian, Indonesian, Filipino, Thai, Lao, Burmese and Malaysian version of tale.

Ramayan one of the two major Sanskrit epics of ancient India, the other being the Mahabharata. Ramayar narrates the life of Rama, Prince of legendary kingdom of kosala. Ramayana is one of the largest ancient epics in world literature. It consists of nearly 24000 verses. In Hindu tradition Ramayana is considered to be -Adi Kavyal which means *first poem*.

Origin

The original Ramayana written by the Sage Valmiki comprised of seven -kandas/ or books. Many scholars question the authorship of the certain passages from the first book (Bala Kanda) and question the authenticity of the last book (Uttara Kanda) for various reasons.

- 1) **Bala Kanda:** -The Book of the Youth, | the boyhood and adolescence of Rama.
- 2) **Ayodhya Kanda:** -The Book of Ayodhya, | the court of Dasaratha and the scenes that set the stage for the unfolding of the story, including the exchange between Dasaratha and Kaikeyi and the exile of Rama
- 3) **Aranya Kanda:** -The Book of the Forest ,| life in the forest during the fourteen year exile and the abduction of Sita by Ravana



- 4 **Kishkindhya Kanda:** -The Book of The Empire of Holy Mokeys,| Rama's residence in Kishkindhya, the quest for Sita, and the slaying of Bali
- 5 **Sundara Kanda:** -The Book of the Beautiful (Hanuman),| sundara means beautiful, and this portion of the book has passages of lyrical beauty; description of the landscapes over which Rama roams, and the arrival of Rama and his allies in Lanka
- 6 **Yuddha Kanda:** "The Book of War,| the defeat of Ravana, the recovery of Sita, the return to Ayodhya, and the coronation of Rama and
- 7 **Uttara Kanda:** -The Book Beyond,| the -later section, detailing Rama's life in Ayodhya, the banishment of Sita, the birth of Lava and Kusa, the reconciliation of Rama and Sita, her death or return to the earth, and Rama's ascent into heaven.



Ramayana: Lessons the epic taught us

This Hindu epic has given us number of lessons that we must not forget. These lessons help us better ourselves and emerge as refined and reformed human beings with each passing day.

1) Truth Triumphs

The basic teaching of Ramayana is that no matter how powerful evil is, it will always be defeated by Good. Truth always wins, no matter how vicious or poisonous lie is because even bitter truth oozes with positivity and the sweetest lie has the darkest agenda behind it. The win of good over evil is a universal fate. A person should always have a noble heart and good values. That is how Lord Rama defeated the most knowledgeable person in history Ravana.

2) Respect elders and be duty bound towards parents

Ram left for vanvas after his step-mother expressed her desire to see biological son Bharath as the future king of Ayodhya.

3) Remain united with siblings even during the toughest of times

Bharat refused to accept the throne after his father's demise and waited for Ram to return from his vanvas. Lakshman accompanied his brother Ram for the 14-year-long vanvas.

4) Be deeply committed to your duty

Besides being Sita's husband, Ram was also the King of Ayodhya. And the duty of the king is to keep his subjects happy. And hence, he had to abandon his wife for the sake of the masses after they questioned her chastity. As a husband, he was duty bound towards his wife. But as a King, he had to think of his subjects' wishes ahead of his personal ones.



5) **Choose the path of righteousness**

Vibhishana, younger brother of Ravana chose to not support his sibling in the war against Ram. He knew his brother had committed a sin by abducted someone—a married lady.

6) **Remain humble no matter how powerful you become**

Hanuman could have easily rescued Sita from Ravana's Ashoka Vatika. He had the power to single-handedly fight against Ravana's army. But he chose to surrender to Lord Ram's divinity and let him do the needful.

7) **Never consider anyone inferior**

Mighty prince Ram took the help of Vanar sena (monkey army) to build a bridge (Ram Setu) so that he could reach Lanka to free Sita. The little monkeys not just helped him build the setu but also took part in the war against Ravana.

8) **All that glitters is not gold**

Sita got attracted to a spotted deer that looked incredibly beautiful. She wanted Ram to get the deer for her from the jungle. Actually, it wasn't a deer, but Mareech, Ravana's accomplice in disguise of the animal.

9) **Embrace all irrespective of caste, creed or colour**

Prince Ram ate fruits that were already tasted by Shabri, a poor old woman who had nothing much to offer but pure love.

10) **Be loyal to your spouse**

Ravana tried to lure Sita after abducting her. But Sita never let him succeed in his attempts. Ram didn't remarry after Sita was forcefully abandoned by him even after conducting the 'Agni Pariksha'. Being a King, he enjoyed the privilege of having many queens, but he chose to remain loyal to his beloved wife – Sita.

11) **Abandon the following**

Kama (lust), Krodha (anger), Moha (desire), Lobha (greed), Mada (pride), Ahankar (ego), Irshya (jealousy), Jaddata (insensitivity), Ghrina (hatred), Bhaya (fear).



Story

Rama was the eldest son of the great king Dasharatha. The gods had declared that he was born for the specific purpose of defeating the demon-king Ravana. He is considered to be the seventh incarnation of the great god, Vishnu.

Rama won the hand of his wife Sita in an archery contest, in which he was the only contender able to bend a bow that had once belonged to Shiva. Sita had been born of a furrow in the earth (this is what her name means). The two were extremely happy together, and returned to live in Rama's home, in Ayodhya.

Rama's stepmother, Kaikeyi, wanted to promote her son Bharata as heir to the throne of her husband, Dasharatha; Rama was eldest, and the honor rightly was due him. Kaikeyi called in several favors her husband had promised her, and forced Dasharatha, who could not go back on his promises to his wife—to exile Rama for fourteen years. Rama's brother Lakshman and his wife insisted on accompanying him, and they left together. Dasharatha died of grief, and Bharata attempted to persuade his brother to return. Rama, also bound not to go back on his word, refused. Bharata pledged to rule in Rama's name until his return.

Rama, Sita, and Lakshman wandered in the forest until Rama was seen by an evil spirit, who fell in love with him. Rama rejected her and she attacked with her allies, only to meet defeat at the hands of Lakshman and Rama. She appealed to her brother Ravana, the strongest and most dangerous demon on earth at that time, for help. Ravana decided to kidnap Sita, the wife of Rama.

Ravana devised a plan to abduct Sita after hearing about her incomparable beauty. He sent one of his demons disguised as a magical golden deer to entice Sita. To please her, Rama and Lakshmana went to hunt the deer down. Before they did though, they drew a protective circle around Sita and told her that she would be safe for as long as she did not step outside the circle. After Rama and Lakshmana left, Ravana appeared as a holy man begging alms. The moment Sita stepped outside the circle to give him food, Ravana grabbed her and carried her to his kingdom in Lanka.



Upon returning and finding Sita gone, Rama despaired. Accompanied by his brother, he went in search of her. On the way the two killed a demon whose liberated spirit told them to seek the help of Sugriva, the monkey-king. Rama then sought the help of a band of monkeys offer to help him find Sita. Hanuman, the general of the monkey band can fly since his father is the wind. He flew to Lanka and, finding Sita in the grove, comforted her and told her Rama would come to save her soon. Ravana's men captured Hanuman, and Ravana ordered them to wrap Hanuman's tail in cloth and to set it on fire. With his tail burning, Hanuman escaped and hopped from house-top to house-top, setting Lanka on fire. He then flew back to Rama to tell him where Sita was.

Rama, Lakshmana and the monkey army built a causeway from the tip of India to Lanka and crossed over to Lanka where a cosmic battle ensued. Rama killed several of Ravana's brothers and eventually confronted the ten-headed Ravana. He killed Ravana, freed Sita and after Sita proved her purity, they returned to Ayodhya where Bharata returned the crown to him.



Many versions of the Ramayana end thus with return of Sita and Rama to their kingdom after fourteen years of exile, and the commencement of Ram Rajya, the glorious time of the rule of Ram. Other versions, such as that by Valmiki, end with the questioning of Sita's loyalty during the time of her kidnapping, when she spent so much time in another man's home. In such versions, Sita returned to her husband only to be put to a fire test to prove her loyalty. She passed this test, only to be questioned again later. She was then banished with her two unborn twin sons. Later asked to return to the kingdom, she did so only to stand before the assembly, calling on the earth (from which she was born) to take her back again if she had remained pure. The story ends with her absorption into her mother, the earth, and her ultimate vindication.



THANK YOU