



॥ श्रीमद्वाल्मीकि रामायणम् ॥

Samkṣepa Rāmāyaṇam

September 24, 2017

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Elements of Good Governance

- Attributes of the king
- Council of ministers & Advisors
 - Skills & Values
 - Ethical and moral standards in administration
- Defense & Deterrence
- Town planning
- Metrics for progressive society/living
 - Extent of material progress
 - Size of the city of Ayodhyā



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Bālakāṇḍam – Sarga 5

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Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 5)

Description of city of Ayodhyā

23 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 04: Preamble – about Sagara, Ikṣvāku, Rāmayaṇa Family

Verses 05 – 11: Description of the physical beauty of Ayodhyā

Verses 12 – 19: Description of the surroundings etc.

Verses 20 – 23: About the people & their attitude

Genesis of Rāmāyaṇam

येषां स सगरो नाम सागरो येन खानितः ।
षष्टिः पुत्रसहस्राणि यं यान्तं पर्यवारयन् ॥ 1.5.2

Among them a king named Sagara got the ocean dug and his sixty thousand sons surrounded him whenever he went (to battle).

इक्ष्वाकूणामिदं तेषां राज्ञां वंशे महात्मनाम् ।
महदुत्पन्नमाख्यानं रामायणमिति श्रुतम् ॥ 1.5.3

It was from the family of mighty monarchs with Ikṣvāku as its founder and the kings born in that race, the celebrated epic known as the 'Rāmāyaṇam' arose.

Hear Rāmāyaṇam

To know the three puruṣārthas

तदिदं वर्तयिष्यामि सर्वं निखिलमादितः ।

धर्मकामार्थसहितं श्रोतव्यमनसूयया ॥ 1.5.4

I shall propagate this Rāmāyaṇam, **incorporating the merits of dharma, artha and kāma**, and complete in all respects. It deserves to be heard right from the start without prejudice.

Ayodhyā

A Mega City ??

आयता दश च द्वे च योजनानि महापुरी ।
श्रीमती त्रीणि विस्तीर्णा सुविभक्तमहापथा ॥ 1.5.7

With well laid out thoroughfares, the beautiful and prosperous city of Ayodhyā extended for twelve yojanas in length and three yojanas in breadth.

1 Yojana = 8 Miles

Therefore the size of Ayodhyā was 96 miles by 24 miles

1 Mile = 1.6 km; Ayodhyā = 154 km x 38 km = 5,852 Km²

*New York: 11,600 Km²; Tokyo: 8,500 Km²;
Chicago: 7,000 Km²; Boston = 5,000 Km²*

Description of the city of Ayodhyā

कवाटतोरणवतीं सुविभक्तान्तरापणाम् ।
सर्वयन्त्रायुधवतीमुपेतां सर्वशिल्पिभिः ॥ 1.5.10

The city where all kinds of artificers lived had arched outer gateways, well arranged local markets and all kinds of instruments and weapons.

सूतमागधसम्बाधां श्रीमतीमतुलप्रभाम् ।
उच्चाट्टालध्वजवतीं शतघ्नीशतसङ्कुलाम् ॥ 1.5.11

With matchless splendour, it abounded in eulogists & genealogists. It contained stately edifices decorated with flags & hundreds of śataghnīs (missiles).

Description of the city of Ayodhyā

दुर्गगम्भीरपरिघां दुर्गामिन्यैर्दुरासदाम् ।
वाजिवारणसम्पूर्णां गोभिरुष्ट्रैः खरैस्तथा ॥ 1.5.13

It was enclosed by strong fortifications and a deep moat. No enemy can ever enter and occupy that city. It abounded with several elephants and horses, cattle, camels and mules.

People of Ayodhyā

तामग्निमद्भिर्गुणवद्भिरावृतां द्विजोत्तमैर्वेदषडङ्गपारगैः ।
सहस्रदैस्सत्यरतैर्महात्मभिर्महर्षिकल्पै ऋषिभिश्च केवलैः॥
1.5.23

That city (of Ayodhyā) was filled with excellent dwijas performing rituals of sacrificial fire, virtuous and well versed in the Vedas and Vedāngas. They were generous, truthful and dignified. They were almost equal to ṛṣis and maharṣis.



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Bālakāṇḍam – Sarga 6

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Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 6)

Riches, comfort of people in Daśaratha's rule

28 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 05: Qualities of Daśaratha in a nutshell

Verses 06 – 14: People, their wealth, behavioural practices etc.

Verses 15 – 19: How the 4 varṇas lived, what they practiced

Verses 20 – 25: Cattle power of Ayodhyā

Verses 26 – 28: About Daśaratha's rule

Daśaratha's attributes

तस्यां पुर्यामयोध्यायां वेदवित्सर्वसङ्ग्रहः ।

दीर्घदर्शी महातेजाः पौरजानपदप्रियः ॥ 1.6.1

इक्ष्वाकूणामतिरथो यज्वा धर्मरतो वशी ।

महर्षिकल्पो राजर्षिस्त्रिषु लोकेषु विश्रुतः ॥ 1.6.2

From that city of Ayodhyā, Daśaratha who was well versed in Vedas, commanded all resources, farsighted, possessed great prowess, dear to the inhabitants of towns and villages, among Ikṣvāku kings, a great charioteer capable of fighting with many maharathas singlehanded. He performed many sacrifices & devoted to the practice of dharma, in full control over his subjects, a great sage, a royal saint and renowned in the three worlds...

Daśaratha's attributes

बलवान्निहतामित्रो मित्रवान्विजितेन्द्रियः ।

धनैश्च सङ्ग्रहैश्चान्यैश्शक्रवैश्रवणोपमः ॥ 1.6.3

यथा मनुर्महातेजा लोकस्य परिरक्षिता ।

तथा दशरथो राजा वसञ्जगदपालयत् ॥ 1.6.4

From that city of Ayodhyā, king Daśaratha ruled the world following the tradition of Manu who was a highly powerful protector of the people. He was mighty, a destroyer of enemies, had scores of good friends, had perfect control over his senses, wealthy and rich with other accumulated possessions. In riches, he was comparable to Indra and Kubera.

People were clean, well dressed...

नाकुण्डली नामकुटी नास्रग्वी नाल्पभोगवान् ।
नामृष्टो नानुलिप्ताङ्गो नासुगन्धश्च विद्यते ॥ 1.6.10

In the city, there was none without ear ornaments, without coronet, without wearing garlands and none enjoyer of lowly things, none unclean and none without the anointment of fragrant on the body.

People – their skills, interests etc.

न नास्तिको नानृतको न कश्चिदबहुशुतः ।

नासूयको न चाऽशक्तो नाविद्वान्विद्यते तदा ॥ 1.6.14

That time there was no atheist, no liar and none ignorant of the śāstras. There was no one who was jealous, incompetent or illiterate.

नाषडङ्गविदत्रासीन्नाव्रतो नासहस्रदः ।

न दीनः क्षिप्तचित्तो वा व्यथितो वाऽपि कश्चन ॥ 1.6.15

There was none who was not well versed in the Vedāngas or who did not perform religious vows. There was not even one who would not donate in thousands. There was no one distracted or depressed.



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Bālakāṇḍam – Sarga 7

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Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 7)

Daśaratha's Court (Ministers)

22 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 04: Description of the ministers

Verses 05 – 11: Ministers' values, skills & behaviour

Verses 12 – 15: About the people of Ayodhyā

Verses 16 – 17: Ministers's values, skills & behavior
continued...

Verses 18 – 22: King Daśaratha's rule with the help
of ministers

Daśaratha's wise counsel

धृष्टिर्जयन्तो विजयस्सिद्धार्थो ह्यर्थसाधकः ।

अशोको मन्त्रपालश्च सुमन्त्रश्चाष्टमोऽभवत् ॥ 1.7.3

The eight ministers were Dhriṣṭi, Jayanta, Vijaya, Siddhārtha, Arthasādhaka, Aśoka, Mantrapāla and Sumantra.

ऋत्विजौ द्वावभिमतौ तस्याऽऽस्तामृषिसत्तमौ ।

वसिष्ठो वामदेवश्च मन्त्रिणश्च तथापरे ॥ 1.7.4

He had two well chosen excellent rishis, Vasiṣṭha and Vāmadeva, as family priests besides some other counsellors.

Daśaratha's Ministers Qualifications !

विद्याविनीता ह्रीमन्तः कुशला नियतेन्द्रियाः ।
श्रीमन्तश्च महात्मानश्शास्त्रज्ञा दृढविक्रमाः ॥ 1.7.5
कीर्तिमन्तः प्रणिहिताः यथावचनकारिणः ।
तेजः क्षमायशःप्राप्ता स्मितपूर्वाभिभाषिणः ॥ 1.7.6

They were well educated & deemed unjust acts shameful. They were renowned, proficient, versed in śāstras, wealthy & magnanimous. They had their senses restrained, their deeds were in accordance with their words, & acted with determination. They were brilliant, forgiving & reputed and always spoke with a smile.

Minister's behavior

Moral & Ethical standards in punishment

कुशला व्यवहारेषु सौहृदेषु परीक्षिताः ।

प्राप्तकालं तु ते दण्डं धारयेयुस्सुतेष्वपि ॥ 1.7.8

They knew how to deal (with people). They were true to their friends. They used to impose appropriate punishment **even on their own sons.**

कोशसङ्ग्रहणे युक्ता बलस्य च परिग्रहे ।

अहितं चापि पुरुषं न विहिंस्युरदूषकम् ॥ 1.7.9

They were experts in replenishing the exchequer & in collecting the army. They never inflicted punishment **even on those who were not their well wishers,** if they did not commit any offence.



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Bālakāṇḍam – Sarga 8

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Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 8)

Daśaratha's desire for son

24 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 04: Daśaratha's desire to perform
पुत्रकामेष्टी, calls for counsel

Verses 05 – 12: Obtains their blessings, horse
released

Verses 13 – 21: Orders that preparations be made
as per śāstra

Verses 22 – 23: Informs wives about the decision,
asks them also to observe दीक्षा

Kāmeṣṭī

Importance of rules

तदहं यष्टुमिच्छामि शास्त्रदृष्टेन कर्मणा ।

कथं प्राप्स्याम्यहं कामं बुद्धिरत्रविचार्यताम् ॥ 1.8.9

I intend to perform a sacrifice in accordance with the scriptures. How can I fulfil my desire in this regard? You may deliberate and find a solution

सरय्वाश्चोत्तरे तीरे यज्ञभूमिर्विधीयताम् ।

शान्तयश्चाभिवर्धन्तां यथाकल्पं यथाविधि ॥ 1.8.15

On the northern bank of Sarayu, a sacrificial pavilion be prepared according to the methods ordained in the 'Kalpa'. Auspicious rites be performed in accordance with the ordinance for its uninterrupted completion.