



# ॥ श्रीमद्वाल्मीकि रामायणम् ॥

## Rāmāyaṇam - Bālakāṇḍam

October 22, 2017

*For all details of Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇam sessions including live webcast and archives, please visit:*

<http://www.practicalvedantaiimb.com/>

*Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇam Verses & Meaning from <https://www.valmiki.iitk.ac.in>*



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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

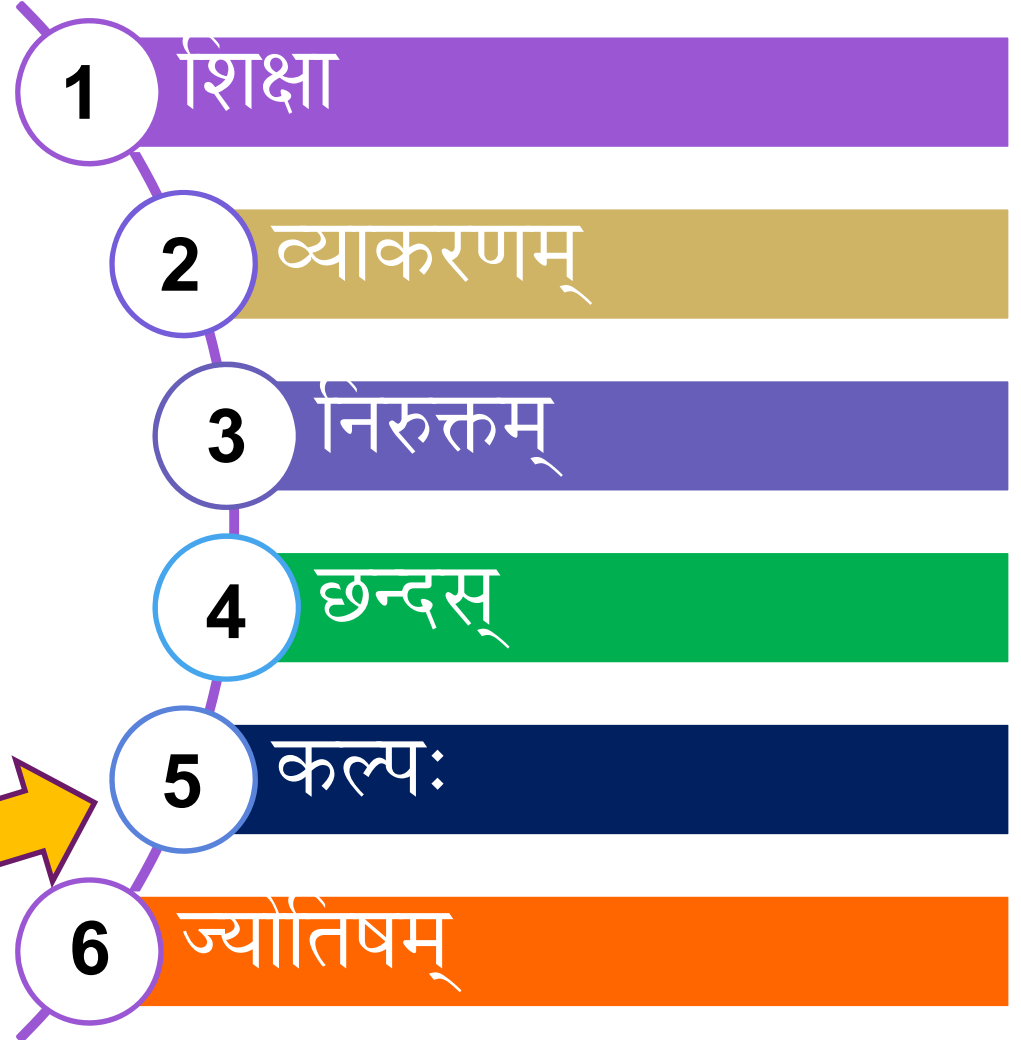
सरय्वाश्चोत्तरे तीरे यज्ञभूमिर्विधीयताम् ।

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.

# The Six Vedāṅgas

शिक्षा कल्पो व्याकरणं  
निरुक्तं छन्दसां चयः ।  
ज्योतिषामयनं चैव  
वेदाङ्गानि षडेव तु ॥



# Components of Kalpasūtras

- **Śrautasūtras**: Systematic account of all vedic sacrifices prevalent at the time of composition
- **Gṛhyasūtras**: Deals with household ceremonies
- **Dharmasūtras**: Deals with Social usage & Law
- **Śulbasūtras**: Rules for measurements & construction of fire altars, sacrificial place etc.

# Elements of an Operations Manual

## An example

कथम्?

कः?

कदा?

निवारणम्?

यज्ञः

विधि – निषेधाः?

मन्त्राः?

कति वारम्?

करणम्?

वस्तूनि?

इतर नियमाः?

# Yajñas: A way of living

- Performance of a Yajña is considered to be the best sacred duty (यज्ञो वै श्रेष्ठतमं कर्म)
- Elaborate descriptions of different types of Yajñas, methods of performing, frequency etc.
  - How to prepare the Agni?
  - Types of people involved and their roles
  - Types of offerings to be made



# अग्निहोत्रविहारः

दर्शपूर्णमासावेदिः

आहवनीयग्निः  
(East)



गार्हपत्याग्निः  
(West)

दक्षिणाग्निः  
(South)

# Śrauta Sūtra Yajñas

## Basic Sacrifices

- **Agnihotra** – morning and evening  
(सायंप्रारग्निहोत्रम्)
  - *Backbone and minimum obligatory daily ritual*
  - *Oblations of milk or rice grains with mantras*
  - **Dawn**: offerings made to Sūrya & Prajāpati
  - **Evening**: offerings made to Agni & Prajāpati
- **Darśapūrṇamasa** – Fortnightly sacrifices
- **Cāturmāsya** – Quarterly sacrifices

# Śrauta Sūtra Yajñas

## Advanced Sacrifices

- **Somayajñas – Yearly sacrifices**
  - Rājasūya – To be done by kings alone
  - Vājapeya – Can be done by Brahmins or Kṣatriyas
- **Eligibility conditions for Somayajñas**
  - Should be a Āhitāgni – married, completed vedādhyayana, established the three fires
  - Should have accomplished Darśapūrṇamāseṣṭi, Cāturmāsya and Nirudhapaśu
  - Family must have performed somayāga in the previous two generations

# Yajñas from Gṛhya Sūtras

## Frequency of the rites

- **Daily rites**: Sandhyā, Aupāsana homa, Pañcamahāyajñas
- **Monthly rites**: Pārvaṇa Sthālipāka (New Moon and Full Moon days),
- **Yearly rites**: Śravaṇākarma (Sarpa Bali), Indrayajña, Āśvayujī\*, Āgrahāyaṇi, Aṣṭaka, Phālguni\*, Caitrī\*
- **Other Rites** for cattle welfare and agricultural operations

\* Performed during the full moon days of the respective months

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 9)

## The Story of Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

### 19 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 06: Sumantara's narration about Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

Verses 07 – 13: Distress in the kingdom of Romapāda, advice of learned priests.

Verses 14 – 16: Romapāda sends his courtesans and ministers to bring Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

Verses 17 – 19: Ṛṣyaśṛṅga brings prosperity, Śāntā given in marriage to Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 10)

## Bringing Ṛṣyaśṛṅga to Aṅga Deśa

### 31 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 06: Plan to bring Ṛṣyaśṛṅga to Aṅga deśa

Verses 07 – 13: Beautiful courtesans meet Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

Verses 14 – 22: The courtesans are taken to the hermitage, offer sweets to Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

Verses 23 – 27: Ṛṣyaśṛṅga goes out in search of the courtesans the next day

Verses 28 – 31: Courtesans bring Ṛṣyaśṛṅga to Romapāda's court, Śāntā given in marriage to Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 11)

## Daśaratha brings Ṛṣyaśṛṅga to Ayodhyā

### 30 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 12: Sumantara narrates the story told by sage Sanatkumāra

Verses 13 – 18: Daśaratha reaches Aṅga, meets Romapāda & exchange pleasantries

Verses 19 – 22: Ṛṣyaśṛṅga agrees to come to Ayodhyā

Verses 23 – 26: Daśaratha reaches Ayodhyā with Śāntā and Ṛṣyaśṛṅga

Verses 27 – 30: Śāntā and Ṛṣyaśṛṅga stays with Daśaratha in the palace

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 12)

## Daśaratha orders for sacrificial rites

### 21 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 03: Daśaratha requests Ṛṣyaśṛṅga to perform the Yajña and he agrees

Verses 04 – 10: Daśaratha assembles Vasiṣṭha, Vāmadeva, Kāśyapa, Jābāli & other learned men & informs his desire to perform the Yajña

Verses 11 – 14: Daśaratha requests for preparation for the Yajña as per rules

Verses 15 – 18: Importance of following rules in performing such Yajñas

Verses 19 – 21: Sages return to their places



# Performance of Yajña

## Rules & Regulations...

सरय्वाश्चोत्तरे तीरे यज्ञभूमिर्विधीयताम् ।  
शान्तयश्चाभिवर्धन्तां यथाकल्पं यथाविधि ॥ 1.12.15

Let a sacrificial pavilion be constructed on the northern bank of Sarayu according to prescribed methods ordained in the 'kalpa' and other scriptures and peace invocations be done for the uninterrupted completion of the sacrifice.

शक्यः प्राप्तुमयं यज्ञस्सर्वेणापि महीक्षिता ।  
नापराधो भवेत् कष्टो यद्यस्मिन् क्रतुसत्तमे ॥ 1.12.16

If in this best of sacrifices aśvamedha, obstructions and omissions do not occur it will be possible for the king to get the results.

# Performance of Yajña

## Rules & Regulations...

छिद्रं हि मृगयन्तेऽत्र विद्वांसो ब्रह्मराक्षसाः ।

निहतस्य च यज्ञस्य सद्यः कर्ता विनश्यति ॥ 1.12.17

The learned Brahmarākṣasas always look out for flaws in the sacrifice so that they can strike into it. If the sacrifice is damaged, the doer of the sacrifice will be immediately destroyed.

तद्यथा विधिपूर्वं मे क्रतुरेष समाप्यते ।

तथा विधानं क्रियतां समर्थाः करणेष्विह ॥ 1.12.18

Therefore let the arrangements be made in a manner by which this sacrifice is completed in accordance with the prescriptions in scriptures and you are experts in doing so

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 13)

## Aśvamedha begun, Sage Vasiṣṭha's arrangements for Yajña

### **37 verses in the Sarga**

Verses 01 – 05: Daśaratha requests Vasiṣṭha to take all responsibilities for performing the Yajña

Verses 06 – 12: Preparations for Yajña – Resource persons invited

Verses 13 – 17: Instructions for managing the event

Verses 18 – 26: Extending invitations to other Kings

Verses 27 – 33: Kings arrive, treated with hospitality

Verses 34 – 37: Vasiṣṭha commands Daśaratha to enter into the sacrificial place

# Preparations for the Yajña

## Resource persons...

ततोऽब्रवीद् द्विजान् वृद्धान् यज्ञकर्मसुनिष्ठितान् ।  
स्थापत्ये निष्ठितांश्चैव वृद्धान् परमधार्मिकान् ॥ 1.13.6  
कर्मान्तिकाञ्छिल्पकरान् वर्धकीन् खनकानपि ।  
गणकाञ्छिल्पानश्चैव तथैव नटनर्तकान् ॥ 1.13.7  
तथा शुचीञ्शास्त्रविदः पुरुषान् सुबहुश्रुतान् ।

Thereafter Vasiṣṭha summoned those brahmins who are experienced in the sacrifice related activities venerable and righteous architects skilled workers brick makers, carpenters, diggers, artisans, account keepers, dancers and actors, men versed in scriptures and honest & well informed people.

# Preparations for the Yajña

## Putting up the required structures...

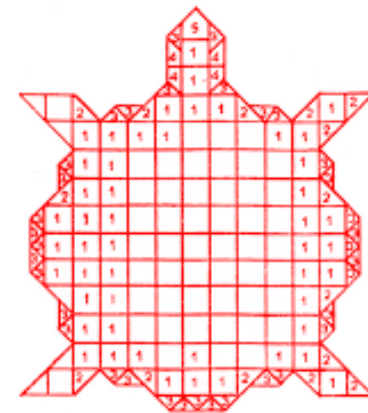
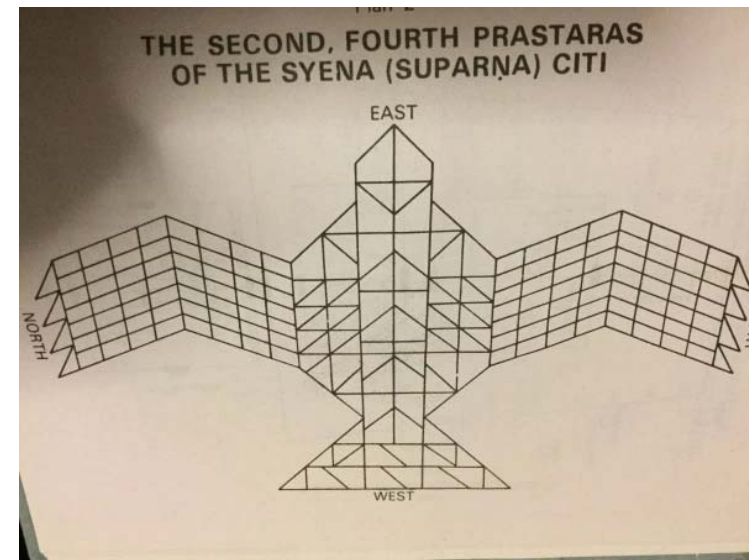
यज्ञकर्म समीहन्तां भवन्तो राजशासनात् ॥ 1.13.8

इष्टका बहु साहस्री शीघ्रमानीयतामिति ।

उपकार्याः क्रियन्तां च राज्ञो बहुगुणान्विताः ॥ 1.13.9

Vasiṣṭha addressed them saying, "In accordance with the king's command let the work of the sacrificial ceremony be inaugurated. Let thousands of bricks be brought. Let temporary residential buildings be erected with all the comforts to accommodate royal guests."

# Vedic Altars (Examples)



# Preparations for the Yajña

## Elaborate infrastructure...

ब्राह्मणावसथाश्चैव कर्तव्याश्शतशशुभाः ।

भक्ष्यान्नपानैर्बहुभिस्समुपेतास्सुनिष्ठिताः ॥ 1.13.10

Like that, for accommodating Brahmans hundreds of sanctified houses be built, well endowed and well established with very many eatables, foods, and potables.

तथा पौरजनस्यापि कर्तव्या बहुविस्तराः ।

आवासा बहुभक्ष्या वै सर्वकामैरुपस्थिताः ॥ 1.13.11

In the same manner let widely spread residential accommodation be furnished with many items of food and all kinds of entertainment be provided for people from other lands.

## Preparations for the Yajña Infrastructure & Hospitality ...

तथा जानपदस्यापि जनस्य बहुशोभनम् ।  
दातव्यमन्नं विधिवत्सत्कृत्य न तु लीलया ॥ 1.13.12

**In the same way people coming from rural areas also  
should be duly, not casually, treated with respect**

सर्वे वर्णा यथा पूजां प्राप्नुवन्ति सुसत्कृताः ।

न चावज्ञा प्रयोक्तव्या कामक्रोधवशादपि ॥ 1.13.13

**People from all castes should be well treated with  
respect. There should be no insult to any one through  
lust on greed on anger**



# Preparations for the Yajña Hospitality & Service Excellence...

यज्ञकर्मसु ये व्यग्राः पुरुषाश्शिल्पिनस्तथा ।  
तेषामपि विशेषेण पूजा कार्या यथाक्रमम् ॥ 1.13.14  
ते च स्युस्सम्भृतास्सर्वे वसुभिर्भोजनेन च ।

**People deeply immersed in performing sacrifice related activities & sculptors be specially honoured according to their nature of work. All of them should be satisfied with money & food.**

यथा सर्वं सुविहितं न किञ्चित्परिहीयते ॥ 1.13.15  
तथा भवन्तः कुर्वन्तु प्रीतिस्निग्धेन चेतसा ।

**Every thing should be well managed. In whatever manner you do, not even the smallest things be left out. Carry out the work with love and affection in your hearts".**