



# ॥ श्रीमद्वाल्मीकि रामायणम् ॥

## Rāmāyaṇam - Bālakāṇḍam

November 12, 2017

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# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 14)

## Daśaratha performs Aśvamedha Yajña

### 57 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 08: Daśaratha commences the Aśvamedha Yajña with the help of Brahmins, details, timing etc.

Verses 09 – 16: Feeding Brahmins, visitors, main participants with delicious food – details.

Verses 17 – 19: Qualifications of those performing the

Verses 20 – 27: Description of sacrificial post, altar, construction

Verses 28 – 37: Details of sacrificial horse, its offering etc.

Verses 38 – 40: Details of four days - types of Yajñas conducted

Verses 41 – 50: Offerings of land, gold, silver to the 4 classes of priests engaged in the Yajña

Verses 51 – 55: Daśaratha gives gifts to other Brahmins

Verses 56 – 57: Ṛṣyaśṛṅga blesses Daśaratha – 4 sons to be born

# Offerings to Chief Priests...

प्राचीं होत्रे ददौ राजा दिशं स्वकुलवर्धनः ।  
अध्वर्यवे प्रतीचीं तु ब्रह्मणे दक्षिणां दिशम् ॥ 1.14.41  
उद्गात्रे च तथोदीचीं दक्षिणैषा विनिर्मिता ।  
अश्वमेधे महायज्ञे स्वयंभूविहिते पुरा ॥ 1.14.42

In order to promote his dynasty, king Daśaratha gave away eastern region to Hotṛ, western region to Adhvaryu, southern region to Brahma and northern region to Udgāta. These offerings were made in accordance with the prescriptions by Brahma long back.

## Gifts to Brahmins...

एवमुक्तो नरपतिर्ब्राह्मणैर्वेदपारगैः ॥ 1.14.47

गवां शतसहस्राणि दश तेभ्यो ददौ नृपः ।

शतकोटीस्सुवर्णस्य रजतस्य चतुर्गुणम् ॥ 1.14.48

**Lord of men, the king having been thus addressed by Brahmins who were well versed in the Vedas, bestowed on them ten hundred thousand cows, a hundred crore of gold coins and four times as much in silver coins.**

# Brahmins offer this to

Ṛṣyaśṛṅga & Vasiṣṭha

ऋत्विजश्च ततस्सर्वे प्रददुस्सहिता वसु ।

ऋश्यशृङ्गाय मुनये वसिष्ठाय च धीमते ॥ 1.14.49

**All the priests collectively offered that wealth to sage  
Ṛṣyaśṛṅga and Vasiṣṭha endowed with prudence.**

# R̥ṣyaśṛṅga blesses Daśaratha

ततोऽब्रवीदृश्यशृङ्गं राजा दशरथस्तदा ।

कुलस्य वर्धनं त्वं तु कर्तुमर्हसि सुव्रत ॥ 1.14.56

King Dasaratha then addressing R̥ṣyaśṛṅga said "O Adherent of vows you can help the continuity of my race".

तथेति च स राजानमुवाच द्विजसत्तमः ।

भविष्यन्ति सुता राजंश्चत्वारस्ते कुलोद्वहाः ॥ 1.14.57

R̥ṣyaśṛṅga, the best of Brahmins, addressing the king said, "O King Let it be. Four sons perpetuating your race will be born to you".

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 15)

## Brahma & Viṣṇu respond to the prayer of Devas

### 33 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 03: Ṛṣyasṅga performs putrakāmeṣṭī and makes offerings to deities

Verses 04 – 15: Devas pray to Brahma & narrate the atrocities of Rāvaṇa; Brahma's curse

Verses 16 – 30: Devas pray to Viṣṇu to incarnate as sons of Daśaratha and kill Rāvaṇa

Verses 31 – 33: Devas praise the glory of Viṣṇu

# Rāvaṇa

## Planning his end...

नैनं सूर्यः प्रतपति पार्श्वे वाति न मारुतः ।  
चलोर्मिमाली तं दृष्ट्वा समुद्रोऽपि न कम्पते ॥ 1.15.10

The Sun does not scorch him and the wind does not blow by him. Even the ocean with its incessantly moving waves becomes still in his presence.

नाकीर्तयदवज्ञानात्तद्रक्षो मानुषान् प्रति ।  
तस्मात्स मानुषाद्बध्यो मृत्युर्नान्योऽस्य विद्यते ॥ 1.15.14

The rākṣasa did not include man monkey and bear because of his disdain for men. As such he is fit to be destroyed by a man and not by any other means.



## Lord Viṣṇu to descend as Rāma

भयं त्यजत भद्रं वो हितार्थं युधि रावणम् ।

सपुत्रपौत्रं सामात्यं समित्रज्ञातिबान्धवम् ॥ 1.15.27

हत्वा क्रूरं दुरात्मानं देवर्षीणां भयावहम् ।

दशवर्षसहस्राणि दशवर्षशतानि च ।

वत्स्यामि मानुषे लोके पालयन्पृथिवीमिमाम् ॥ 1.15.28

Get rid off the fear, let safety be upon you, on eliminating that cruel and evil-minded Rāvaṇa who became dreadful to deities and sages, along with his sons, grandsons, friends, cousins and relatives, ministers and forces too in war for your welfare, I will then reside in human world ruling this earth for eleven thousand years." Thus Viṣṇu assured the gods.

# Lord Viṣṇu's sankalpa to be born to Daśaratha

ततः पद्मपलाशाक्षः कृत्वाऽऽत्मानं चतुर्विधम् ।  
पितरं रोचयामास तथा दशरथन्नृपम् ॥ 1.15.30

Thereafter, the Lord with eyes like the lotus petal was pleased to transform himself into four forms and to choose king Daśratha as his father.

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 16)

## The celestial offering given to Daśaratha's wives

### 32 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 10: Devas request Viṣṇu to take human form to kill Rāvaṇa

Verses 11 – 24: Celestial person offers pāyasam to Daśaratha & asks him to give it to his consorts

Verses 25 – 32: Daśaratha gives the consorts pāyasam in a certain proportion

# Divine being comes with pāyasam

दिवाकरसमाकारं दीप्तानलशिखोपमम् ।

तप्तजाम्बूनदमयीं राजतान्तपरिच्छदाम् ॥ 1.16.14

दिव्यपायससम्पूर्णां पात्रीं पत्नीमिव प्रियाम् ।

प्रगृह्य विपुलां दोर्भ्यां स्वयं मायामयीमिव ॥ 1.16.15

That great ritual being personally brought a big golden vessel carrying it with both of his hands as if he would personally handle his own wife, which vessel is made from the molten gold and covered with a silver lid, and which appeared to be crafted out of a divine illusion, since it is dazzling like sun and glowing like the tongues of flame, and that vessel is full with the divine dessert.

# Daśaratha shares the pāyasam with the queens

कौसल्यायै नरपतिः पायसार्धं ददौ तदा ।

अर्धादर्थं ददौ चापि सुमित्रायै नराधिपः ॥1.16.27 ॥

कैकेय्यै चावशिष्टार्धं ददौ पुत्रार्थकारणात् ।

प्रददौ चावशिष्टार्धं पायसस्यामृतोपमम् ॥1.16.28 ॥

अनुचिन्त्य सुमित्रायै पुनरेव महीपतिः ।

एवं तासां ददौ राजा भार्याणां पायसं पृथक् ॥1.16.29 ॥

Daśaratha gave half the portion of pāyasam to Kauśalyā, half of the remaining half to Sumitrā, half of the remaining portion (one eighth of original) to Kaikeyī for the sake of a son. On further thinking, he gave the remaining one eighth portion to Sumitrā. In this manner the king divided and distributed the pāyasam among his wives separately.

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 17)

## Devas descend as Monkeys & Bears

### 35 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 06: Brahma orders devas to be born as monkeys

Verses 07 – 16: Birth of the monkeys - details

Verses 17 – 28: Valour, strength and special characteristics of the monkeys

Verses 29 – 35: Settling of the monkeys in the forest with Vāli as their leader

# Birth of the Devas to help Rāma

मायाविदश्च शूरांश्च वायुवेगसमाञ्जवे ।

नयज्ञान्बुद्धिसम्पन्नान्विष्णुतुल्यपराक्रमान् ॥ 1.17.3

असंहार्यानुपायज्ञान् दिव्यसंहननान्वितान् ।

सर्वास्त्रगुणसम्पन्नानमृतप्राशनानिव ॥ 1.17.4

अप्सरस्सु च मुख्यासु गन्धर्वाणां तनूषु च ।

सृजध्वं हरिरूपेण पुत्रांस्तुल्यपराक्रमान् ॥ 1.17.5

Incarnate as monkeys in the womb of chiefs of apsaras and gandharvas. Create sons who have the knowledge of deceitful tricks, who are brave, who match wind in speed, who are endowed with intellect and statecraft, who are determined, who are knowledgeable in various means of achieving victory, who are supernatural bodies, who possess capability of employing and resisting weapons, who resemble those who subsist on amṛtam (immortals) and are equal (to Viṣṇu) in prowess.

# Divine characters Ascend...

- Indra - Vāli
- Sūrya - Sugrīva
- Bṛhaspati - Tāraḥ (not Tārā)
- Kubera - Gandhamādana
- Viśwakarma - Nala
- Agni - Nīla
- Varuṇa – Suṣeṇa
- Parjanya - Śarabha
- Vāyu – Hanumān
- Aświni Devatas - Mainda & Dwivida

वानरेन्द्रं महेन्द्राभमिन्द्रो वालिनमूर्जितम् ।  
सुग्रीवं जनयामास तपनस्तपतां वरः ॥ 17.9  
बृहस्पतिस्त्वजनयत्तारं नाम महाहरिम् ।  
सर्ववानरमुख्यानां बुद्धिमन्तमनुत्तमम् ॥ 17.10  
धनदस्य सुतश्श्रीमान् वानरो गन्धमादनः ।  
विश्वकर्मात्वजनयन्नलं नाम महाहरिम् ॥ 17.11  
पावकस्य सुतश्श्रीमान् नीलोऽग्निसदृशेप्रभः ।  
तेजसा यशसा वीर्यादत्येरिच्यत वानरान् ॥ 17.12  
रूपद्रविणसम्पन्नावश्विनौ रूपसम्मतौ ।  
मैन्दं च द्विविदं चैव जनयामासतुस्स्वयम् ॥ 17.13  
वरुणो जनयामास सुषेणं वानरर्षभम् ।  
शरभं जनयामास पर्जन्यस्तु महाबलम् ॥ 17.14  
मारुतस्यात्मजश्श्रीमान्हनुमात्राम वीर्यवान् ।  
वज्रसंहननोपेतो वैनतेयसमो जवे ॥ 17.15