



# ॥ श्रीमद्वाल्मीकि रामायणम् ॥

## Rāmāyaṇam - Bālakāṇḍam

December 10, 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>*

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 23)

## Rāma's sojourn through Kāma's hermitage

### 22 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 04: After a night stay Rāma & Lakṣmaṇa continue their journey with Viśvāmitra

Verses 05 – 09: Rāma enquires about the hermitage at the confluence of Sarayu and Gangā

Verses 10 – 15: The story of Kāma and his burning by Śiva

Verses 16 – 22: Sages at the hermitage receives them for a night halt

# Viśvāmitra wakes up Rāma

कौसल्या सुप्रजा राम पूर्वा सन्ध्या प्रवर्तते ।

उत्तिष्ठ नरशार्दूल कर्तव्यं दैवमाह्निकम् ॥ 1.23.2

**O beloved son of Kausalya, O Rama the day dawns. O best among men, awake, oblations to gods and other sacred rites are required to be performed.**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 24)

Rāma enters the forest - the story of Tāṭakā

**32 verses in the Sarga**

Verses 01 – 04: Viśvāmitra and the two brothers leave the hermitage and cross the river in a boat

Verses 05 – 10: Viśvāmitra explains the genesis of Sarayu & its mingling with Gangā

Verses 11 – 15: Description of the forest that they have entered

Verses 16 – 23: Indra's curse & its redemption, his blessings for the place

Verses 24 - 32: The atrocities of Tāṭakā & Mārīca

# Worshipping the confluence of rivers

तस्यायमतुलशब्दो जाह्नवीमभिवर्तते ।

वारिसङ्घोभजो राम प्रणामं नियतःकुरु ॥1.24.10

When Ganga approaches this river (Sarayu), there is a clash of waters & this great noise is produced. Rama, offer **respectful salutations** here, with a calm mind".

ताभ्यां तु तावुभौ कृत्वा प्रणाममतिधार्मिकौ ।

तीरं दक्षिणमासाद्य जग्मतुर्लघुविक्रमौ ॥1.24.11

Deeply religious (in nature) they both made obeisance to the two rivers and reached the southern bank and advanced with quick steps.

# Description of Tāṭakā & Mārīca

कस्यचित्त्वथ कालस्य यक्षी वै कामरूपिणी ।

बलं नागसहस्रस्य धारयन्ती तदा ह्यभूत् ॥1.24.25

ताटका नाम भद्रं ते भार्या सुन्दस्य धीमतः ।

मारीचो राक्षसः पुत्रो यस्याश्शक्रपराक्रमः ॥1.24.26

Then, after a lapse of several years, O gentle one a terrible yakṣinī by name Tāṭakā, wife of intelligent Sunda, capable of assuming different forms at will, possessed of the strength of a thousand elephants and mother of a rakshasa known as Mārīca armed with the power of Indra took possession of this place.

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 25)

## Viśvāmitra asks Rāma to slay Tāṭakā

### 21 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 03: Rāma's question about Tāṭakā's strength

Verses 04 – 13: Tāṭakā's birth, birth of Mārīca, Agasthya's curse

Verses 14 – 21: Viśvāmitra asks Rāma to kill Tāṭakā

# Is it appropriate to kill a woman?

न हि ते स्त्रीवधकृते घृणा कार्या नरोत्तम ।

चातुर्वर्ण्यहितार्थाय कर्तव्यं राजसूनुना ॥1.25.16

**O best among men you need not hate killing a woman. You are a prince. You should serve the interest of the four orders of the society.**

नृशंसमनृशंसं वा प्रजारक्षणकारणात् ।

पातकं वा सदोषं वा कर्तव्यं रक्षता सता ॥1.25.17

**Whether cruel or kind, sinful or wrong whatever contributes to the protection of the subjects, should be done by the righteous (king).**



# Is it appropriate to kill a woman?

राज्यभारनियुक्तानामेष धर्मस्सनातनः ।

अधर्म्यां जहि काकुत्स्थ धर्मोह्यस्या न विद्यते ॥1.25.18

**This is the eternal law binding those who are appointed to bear the burden of a kingdom. O Kakutstha kill her. She knows no dharma.**

# Dharma is Supreme in resolving dilemmas

शूयते हि पुरा शक्रो विरोचनसुतां नृप ।  
पृथिवीं हन्तुमिच्छन्तीं मन्थरामभ्यसूदयत् ॥1.25.19

**O Prince It is heard that in the past Indra slew Mantharā, Virocana's daughter who intended to destroy the earth.**

विष्णुनापि पुरा राम भृगुपत्नी दृढव्रता ।  
अनिन्द्रं लोकमिच्छन्ती काव्यमाता निषूदिता ॥1.25.20

**O Rāma in olden times, the mother of Kāvya and the wife of sage Bhṛgu, determined to make this world devoid of Indra was destroyed by Viṣṇu.**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 26)

## Rāma kills Tāṭakā

### 36 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 05: Rāma agrees to kill Tāṭakā as per Viśvāmitra's order

Verses 06 – 12: Rāma faces Tāṭakā in person

Verses 13 – 18: Rāma chops off her hand, Lakṣmaṇa her ears and tip of the nose

Verses 19 – 26: Viśvāmitra propels Rāma to kill Tāṭakā, Rāma kills her

Verses 27 – 31: Indra blesses Rāma, bestows special weapons to him thru Viśvāmitra

Verses 32 – 36: Rāma halts there for the night

# Rāma

## Hallmark of unwavering faith

अनुशिष्टोऽस्म्ययोध्यायां गुरुमध्ये महात्मना ।  
पित्रा दशरथेनाहं नावज्ञेयं हि तद्वचः ॥ 1.26.3

In Ayodhyā in the presence of elders and spiritual masters (of Daśaratha's court), I have been ordered by my magnanimous father to act according to your instructions and his words cannot be disobeyed.

सोऽहं पितुर्वचश्शुत्वा शासनाद्ब्रह्मवादिनः ।  
करिष्यामि न सन्देहस्ताटकावधमुत्तमम् ॥ 1.26.4

As per the words of my father and the command of Viśvāmitra, who has the knowledge of the Brahman, I shall execute the welcome act of killing Tāṭakā.

# Dharma is all about larger good

गोब्राह्मणहितार्थाय देशस्यास्य सुखाय च ।

तव चैवाप्रमेयस्य वचनं कर्तुमुद्यतः ॥1.26.5

**For the welfare of cows and brahmins and also for the good of this country, I am ready to perform such acts as commanded by you of boundless energy".**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 27)

**Viśvāmitra confers celestial weapons on Rāma**

**26 verses in the Sarga**

Verses 01 – 03: Viśvāmitra is happy; decides to confer weapons on Rāma

Verses 04 – 19: A complete list of a vast number of unlue weapons given by Viśvāmitra to Rāma

Verses 20 – 26: Rāma receives these weapons and the mantra upadeśa and commits them to his mind

# Unique nature of the weapons

- Different types of Cakras, Astras
- Two shining maces (modakī, śikharī)
- Two unique weapons (Kālapāśa, Varuṇapāśa)
- Two unique thunderbolts (Śuṣka, Ardra)
- Two special powers (Hayaśira, Krauñcāstra)
- An excellent scimitar (Nandana)
- Two much favoured weapons (Gandharvāstra, Mānavāstra)
- And many more...

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 28)

## Viśvāmitra teaches astra prayoga to Rāma

### 22 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 03: Rāma requests Viśvāmitra to teach the prayoga of the astras conferred on him

Verses 04 – 10: Viśvāmitra introduces 44 different astras to Rāma

Verses 11 – 15: The astra devatas appear before Rāma and offer to be of use in times of need

Verses 16 – 22: Rāma asks Viśvāmitra as to who are causing problems to his sacrifice



# Rāma endowed with several Astras

रामं प्राञ्जलयो भूत्वाऽबुवन् मधुरभाषिणः ।

इमे स्म नरशार्दूल शाधि किं करवाम ते ॥ 1.28.13

The astra devatas spoke to Rama in a gentle voice: "O tiger among men, here we are, What can we do for you"?

मानसाः कार्यकालेषु साहाय्यं मे करिष्यथ ।

गम्यतामिति तानाह यथेष्टं रघुनन्दनः ॥ 1.28.14

Rama spoke to them (astra devatas) "Reside in my mind and render assistance in times of need. Now you can go according to your will".