



# ॥ श्रीमद्वाल्मीकि रामायणम् ॥

## Rāmāyaṇam - Bālakāṇḍam

January 07, 2018

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# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 35)

## Viśvāmitra narrates the legend of Gangā

### 24 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 06: Viśvāmitra, Rāma & Lakṣmaṇa leaves the place after overnight stay

Verses 07 – 11: Reach the banks of Jāhnavī, perform rituals

Verses 12 – 19: Birth of Gangā, Umā to Manoramā & Himavān

Verses 20 – 24: Marriage of Uma to Rudra, Gangā reaches the heaven and flows

# Genesis of Gangā

तस्यां गङ्गेयमभवज्ज्येष्ठा हिमवतस्सुता ।

उमा नाम द्वितीयाभून्नाम्ना तस्यैव राघव ॥ 1.35.16

O son of the Raghus this Gangā was born to Manoramā as Himavān's eldest daughter. A second one born to him was well known by the name of Umā.

ददौ धर्मेण हिमवान् तनयां लोकपावनीम् ।

स्वच्छन्दपथगां गङ्गां त्रैलोक्यहितकाम्यया ॥ 1.35.18

In order to do good to the three worlds Himavān, rooted in dharma gifted his eldest daughter Gangā who sanctifies the whole world by flowing at her free will

# Umā's marriage to Rudra

उग्रेण तपसा युक्तां ददौ शैलवरस्सुताम् ।  
रुद्रायाप्रतिरूपाय उमां लोकनमस्कृताम् ॥ 1.35.21

**Himavān the best of mountains gave his daughter Umā associated with severe austerities and venerated by the whole world in marriage to the unrivalled Rudra.**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 36)

## Uma's curse to the Devas

### 27 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 05: Rāmas request to explain the story in detail – why Gangā is holy?

Verses 06 – 11: Devas prayer to Śiva not to engage in procreation with Uma and instead do penance

Verses 12 – 18: Kārtikeya born out of the vital energy of Śiva

Verses 19 – 24: Umā curses the devas of not having progeny

Verses 25 – 27: Rudra and Umā do penance in a mountain peak

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 37)

## Birth of Kārtikeya

### 32 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 05: Devas ask Brahman as to how to get army general for them (they cannot procreate)

Verses 06 – 10: Brahma says Gangā will rear a son for army general

Verses 11 – 21: Agni requests Gangā to cause birth of Kārtikeya

Verses 22 – 29: Six Krittikās tend the child

Verses 30 – 32: Agni & Devas install Kārtikeya as the commander of forces

# Kārtikeya's birth

## Metals & Minerals were formed

यदस्या निर्गतं तस्मात्तप्तजाम्बूनदप्रभम् ।

काञ्चनं धरणीं प्राप्तं हिरण्यममलं शुभम् ॥ 1.37.18

The embryo that emerged from Ganga reached the earth. It resembled the lustre of molten gold. It turned into gold auspicious, bright and pure.

ताम्रं कार्ष्णायिसं चैव तैक्ष्ण्यादेवाभ्यजायत ॥ 1.37.19

मलं तस्याभवत्तत्र त्रपु सीसकमेव च ।

तदेतद्धरणीं प्राप्य नानाधातुरवर्धत ॥ 1.37.20

There copper & iron were produced from its acidity, zinc & lead from its residue. Various minerals were formed when that embryo reached the earth.

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 38)

## Emperor Sagara performs a sacrifice

### 24 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 07: Sagara with his two wives perform penance in Himalayas for 100 years

Verses 08 – 15: Bṛgu's boon to the two wives for 60,001 children

Verses 16 – 21: Banishing of Asamanja by Sagara

Verses 22 – 24: Sagara decides to perform a Yajña



## Trade-offs in Life...

एका जनयिता तात पुत्रं वंशकरं तव ।  
षष्टिं पुत्रसहस्राणि अपरा जनयिष्यति ॥ 1.38.8

**O child, one wife will beget a son who will perpetuate your race and the other, sixty thousand sons, said Bhṛgu.**

एकः कस्यास्सुतो ब्रह्मन् का बहून् जनयिष्यति ।  
श्रोतुमिच्छावहे ब्रह्मन् सत्यमस्तु वचस्तव ॥ 1.38.10

**O knower of Brahman which of us will beget one, and who many sons? O Brahmarshi we wish to hear. Let your words come true".**

# Trade-offs is our choice...

तयोस्तद्वचनं श्रुत्वा भृगुः परमधार्मिकः ।  
उवाच परमां वाणीं स्वच्छन्दोऽत्र विधीयताम् ॥ 1.38.11

Hearing their words, highly virtuous Bhṛgu made an excellent statement saying, 'In this matter, you may exercise your free will'.

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 39)

## Indra stealing the sacrificial horse

### 25 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 07: Indra stealing away the sacrificial horse of Sagara

Verses 08 – 15: Sagara asking his 60,000 sons to look for the horse

Verses 16 – 20: The 60,000 sons dug up the earth one yojana each

Verses 21 – 25: Devas narrate the ongoing act to Brahma

# The making of the ocean

योजनायामविस्तारमेकैको धरणीतलम् ।

बिभिदुः परुषव्याघ्र वज्रस्पर्शसमैर्नखैः ॥ 1.39.17

**O Tiger among men each one of them occupying one yojana in length and breadth of ground, dug up the earth with their nails that were sharp as diamonds.**

योजनानां सहस्राणि षष्टिं तु रघुनन्दन ।

बिभिदुर्धरणीं वीराः रसातलमनुत्तमम् ॥ 1.39.20

**O Descendant of the Raghus the heroic sons of Sagara excavated 60,000 yojanas each reaching Rasātala (one of the several regions below the earth).**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 40)

## Sagara's sons burnt to ashes by Sage Kapila

### 30 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 04: Brahma says to the devas that all the sons will perish in the hands of Kapila

Verses 05 – 11: Sagara's sons couldn't find the horse, father asks them to exert further

Verses 12 – 22: They see 4 mountain like elephants, holding the earth on their head

Verses 23 – 26: They locate the horse near sage Kapila

Verses 27 – 30: Sage Kapila burns them into ashes

# Kapila burns the sons into ashes

शुत्वा तु वचनं तेषां कपिलो रघुनन्दन ।  
रोषेण महताऽऽविष्टो हुङ्कारमकरोत्तदा ॥ 1.40.29

"O descendant of Raghu Kapila, having heard their words, overwhelmed with great wrath, uttered the sound "H'm".

ततस्तेनाप्रमेयेन कपिलेन महात्मना ।  
भस्मराशीकृतास्सर्वे काकुत्स्थ सगरात्मजाः ॥ 1.40.30

O son of Kakusthas all the sons of Sagara were reduced to a heap of ashes, by that magnanimous Kapila, whose power was beyond imagination.

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 41)

## Anṣumān brings back the horse

### 26 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 05: Sagara asks Anṣumān (grandson) to look for the horse

Verses 06 – 11: Anṣumān meets the elephants, gets blessed by them that he will return with the horse

Verses 12 – 21: Anṣumān's conversation with Suparṇa

Verses 22 – 26: Sagara's efforts to bring Gangā in vain, after ruling for 60,000 years he reaches the heaven

# The need for bringing Gangā

स चैवमब्रवीद्वाक्यं वैनतेयो महाबलः ।

मा शुचः पुरुषव्याघ्र वधोऽयं लोकसम्मतः ॥ 1.41.17

Highly powerful Garuda, son of Vinata, addressing Anshuman said 'O Tiger among men do not grieve. This act of assassination is meant for the welfare of the three worlds'.

कपिलेनाप्रमेयेन दग्धा हीमे महाबलाः ।

सलिलं नार्हसि प्राज्ञ दातुमेषां हि लौकिकम् ॥1.41.18

'Your valiant uncles have been burnt by Kapila of boundless power. O Sagacious one performing traditional rites with ordinary water is not proper'.



# The need for bringing Gangā

गङ्गा हिमवतो ज्येष्ठा दुहिता पुरुषर्षभ ।  
तस्यां कुरु महाबाहो पितॄणां तु जलक्रियाम् ॥ 1.41.19

**'O Best among men O Mighty armed one perform the traditional rites of your uncles with water from river Ganga, the eldest daughter of Himavat'.**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 42)

## Anṣumān & Bhagīratha's penances

### 25 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 05: Sagara dies, Anṣumān does penance for 32,000 years, he also attains the Heaven

Verses 06 – 11: Anṣumān's son Dilipa rules for 32,000 years, reaches Heaven

Verses 12 – 16: Bhagīratha also concerned about last rites of his ancestors, does penance for 1,000 years

Verses 17 – 25: Bhagīratha's request for two boons and Brahma's reply

## Anṣumān's Penance

तस्मिन् राज्यं समावेश्य दिलीपे रघुनन्दन ।  
हिमवच्छिखरे पुण्ये तपस्तेपे सुदारुणम् ॥ 1.42.3

**O Delight of the Raghus having vested the kingdom with Dilipa, Anṣumān performed rigid penance on the sacred peak of the Himavat mountain.**

द्वात्रिंशच्च सहस्राणि वर्षाणि सुमहायशाः ।  
तपोवनं गतो राम स्वर्गं लेभे तपोधनः ॥ 1.42.4

**O Rama highly renowned Anṣumān, having lived for 32,000 years in the tapovana, turned an ascetic & attained heaven (not accomplishing his objective).**

# Bhagīratha's Penance

मन्त्रिष्वधाय तद्राज्यं गङ्गावतरणे रतः ।

स तपो दीर्घमातिष्ठद्वोकर्णे रघुनन्दन ॥ 1.42.12

ऊर्ध्वबाहुः पञ्चतपा मासाहारो जितेन्द्रियः ।

तस्य वर्षसहस्राणि घोरे तपसि तिष्ठतः ॥ 1.42.13

**O son of the Raghus (Rama), Bhagīratha, with a determination to bring down Gangā entrusted the kingdom to his ministers and went to a sacred place known as Gokarṇa. There with arms uplifted surrounded by four fires, partaking food once a month, with his senses controlled, carried out panca tapa for a number of years.**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 43)

Śiva holds Gangā on his head, Gangā branches  
into 7 streams

**41 verses in the Sarga**

Verses 01 – 07: Bhagīratha penance for Śiva for a year, Śiva holds  
Gangā in his hair

Verses 08 – 15: Again with penance on Śiva, Gangā is let out into  
7 streams

Verses 16 – 24: All devas and riṣis witness the flow of Gangā in  
awe, description of the event

Verses 25 – 33: Greatness of river Gangā

Verses 27 – 30: Jahnu consumes Gangā, let it out thru his ear,  
Gangā enters into ocean, redeems Sagara's sons

# Greatness of Gangā

तत्र देवर्षिगन्धर्वा वसुधातलवासिनः ॥ 1.43.26  
भवाङ्गपतितं तोयं पवित्रमिति पस्पृशुः ।

Considering the waters fallen from the head of Śiva sacred, devatas, rishis and gandharvas and those living on earth touched it (with reverence).

शापात्प्रपतिता ये च गगनाद्वसुधातलम् ॥ 1.43.27  
कृत्वा तत्राभिषेकं ते बभूवुर्गतकल्मषाः ।

Those cursed to fall from heaven to earth were absolved of their sins after bathing there (in the waters of Gangā).

# Greatness of Gangā

धूतपापाः पुनस्तेन तोयेनाथ सुभास्वता ॥ 1.43.28  
पुनराकाशमाविश्य स्वान् लोकान् प्रतिपेदिरे ।

**Cleansed of their sins by the sparkling waters, they ascended through the sky once again to their own (celestial) worlds.**

मुमुदे मुदितो लोकस्तेन तोयेन भास्वता ॥ 1.43.29  
कृताभिषेको गङ्गायां बभूव विगतक्लमः ।

**People rejoiced at the sight of those shining waters. They were happy to have a dip in Ganga and their fatigue was gone.**

# Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 44)

## Bhagīratha performs ancestors' rites

### 23 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 06: Brahma appears before Bhagīratha,  
Gangā also known as Bhāgīrathī

Verses 07 – 15: Brahma praises Bhagīratha for his  
efforts

Verses 16 – 20: Bhagīratha redeems all his ancestors

Verses 21 – 23: फलश्रुतिः of the story



# Gangā is Bhāgīrathī

सागरस्य जलं लोके यावत्स्थास्यति पार्थिव ।  
सगरस्यात्मजास्तावत्स्वर्गे स्थास्यन्ति देववत् ॥ 1.44.4

**O King as long as the waters in the ocean exist in this world, shall the sons of Sagara, live in heavens like gods.**

इयं च दुहिता ज्येष्ठा तव गङ्गा भविष्यति ।  
त्वत्कृतेन च नाम्नाऽथ लोके स्थास्यति विश्रुता ॥ 1.44.5

**This Gangā will become your eldest daughter and from now on she will be well known in this world (as Bhāgīrathī) after your name**

# Great act of Dharma !

यच्च गङ्गावतरणं त्वया कृतमरिन्दम ।

अनेन च भवान् प्राप्तो धर्मस्यायतनं महत् ॥ 1.44.13

**O Destroyer of enemies by bringing about the descent of Ganga, you have secured a great abode in dharma.**

# फलश्रुति

एष ते राम गङ्गाया विस्तरोऽभिहितो मया ।  
स्वस्ति प्राप्नुहि भद्रं ते संध्याकालोऽतिवर्तते ॥ 1.44.20

**O Rama I have related you the story of Ganga in detail. Evening time is passing by (and we shall perform the ablutions) farewell.**

# फलशृति

**For those who narrate this...**

धन्यं यशस्यमायुष्यं पुत्र्यं स्वर्ग्यमतीव च ।

यश्श्रावयति विप्रेषु क्षत्रियेष्वितरेषु च ॥ 1.44.21

प्रीयन्ते पितरस्तस्य प्रीयन्ते दैवतानि च ।

**He will be blessed with fame, longevity, progeny and (after death) heaven brahmins One who recites this story of Gangā to the Kṣatriyas and others, the gods and his forefathers would be pleased with him.**

# फलशृति

For those who hear this...

इदमाख्यानमव्यग्रो गङ्गावतरणं शुभम् ॥ 1.44.22

यश्शृणोति च काकुत्स्थ सर्वान् कामानवाप्नुयात् ।

सर्वे पापाः प्रणश्यन्ति आयुः कीर्तिश्च वर्धते ॥ 1.44.23

**O Son of the Kākusthas whosoever listens to this auspicious story relating to the descent of Gangā with concentration, all his desires will be achieved, his sins will be destroyed and his longevity and fame will increase".**