



ADVAITA ACADEMY
for the Top of Knowledge



॥ श्रीमद्वाल्मीकि रामायणम् ॥

Rāmāyaṇam - Bālakāṇḍam

March 25, 2018

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ध्यानम्

शुक्लांबरधरं विष्णुं शशिवर्णं चतुर्भुजम् ।
प्रसन्नवदनं ध्यायेत् सर्वविघ्नोपशान्तये ॥ 1
दोर्भिर्युक्ता चतुर्भिः स्फटिकमणिमयीमक्षमालां दधाना
हस्तेनैकेन पद्मं सितमपि च शुकं पुस्तकं चापरेण ।
भासाकुन्देन्दु शङ्खस्फटिकमणिनिभा
भासमानाऽसमाना
सा मे वाग्देवतेयं निवसतु वदने सर्वदा सुप्रसन्ना ॥ 2

ध्यानम्

कूजन्तं रामरामेति मधुरं मधुराक्षरम् ।

आरूह्य कविताशाखां वन्दे वाल्मीकिकोकिलम् ॥ 3

वाल्मीकेर्मुनिसिंहस्य कवितावनचारिणः ।

शृण्वन् रामकथानादं को न याति परां गतिम् ॥ 4

गोष्पदीकृत वाराशिं* मशकीकृतराक्षसम् ।

रामायणमहामालारत्नं वन्देऽनिलात्मजम् ॥ 5

* - वारीशं (another version)

ध्यानम्

यत्र यत्र रघुनाथकीर्तनं तत्र तत्र कृतमस्तकाञ्जलिम् ।
बाष्पवारिपरिपूर्णलोचनं मारुतिं नमत राक्षसान्तकम् ॥ 6
वैदेहीसहितं सुरद्रुमतले हैमे महामण्डपे
मध्येपुष्पकमासने मणिमये वीरासने सुस्थितम् ।
अग्रे वाचयति प्रभञ्जनसुते तत्त्वं मुनिभ्यः परं
व्याख्यान्तं भरतादिभिः परिवृतं रामं भजे श्यामलम् ॥ 7
नमोऽस्तु रामाय सलक्ष्मणाय देव्यै च तस्यै जनकात्मजायै ।
नमोऽस्तु रुद्रेन्द्रयमानिलेभ्यो नमोऽस्तु चन्द्रार्कमरुद्गणेभ्यः ॥

Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 45)

Viśvāmitra narrates Amṛtha mathanam

44 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 09: Rāma & Lakṣmaṇa revel in the story of Gangā avataraṇam

Verses 10 – 14: Reach Viśālā, Rāmā enquires about the place

Verses 15 – 25: Dityas and Ādityas churn the ocean of milk, consumption of hālahala by Rudra

Verses 26 – 30: Hari assumes the form of a tortoise and helps the churning of the ocean

Verses 31 – 38: Dhanvantri, Apsaras, other things come out along with nectar

Verses 39 – 44: Hari as Mohinī takes away the nectar; great battle between Dityas and Ādityas; Dityas greatly perish in war

Rāma's question about Viśālā

अथ रामो महाप्राज्ञो विश्वामित्रं महामुनिम् ।
पप्रच्छ प्राञ्जलिर्भूत्वा विशालामुत्तमां पुरीम् ॥ 1.45.11

Thereafter great intellectual, Rāma, with folded palms enquired of eminent ascetic Viswāmitra, about the excellent city of Viśālā.

कतरो राजवंशोऽयं विशालायां महामुने ।
श्रोतुमिच्छामि भद्रं ते परं कौतूहलं हि मे ॥ 1.45.12

"O Distinguished ascetic, which royal dynasty is ruling this city of Viśālā? Could you tell me? Great is my curiosity. May you prosper"

The idea of immortality...

पूर्वं कृतयुगे राम दितेः पुत्रा महाबलाः ।

अदितेश्च महाभाग वीर्यवन्तस्सुधार्मिकाः ॥ 1.45.15

O Blessed Rāma in kritayuga, the sons of Diti were very **strong** and those of Aditi were **spirited** and **righteous**.

ततस्तेषां नरश्रेष्ठ बुद्धिरासीन्महात्मनाम् ।

अमरा अजराश्चैव कथं स्याम निरामयाः ॥ 1.45.16

O Best among men a thought came to those illustrious ones, 'how can we be free from old age, death and disease'?

Rudra consumes Hālahala

त्वदीयं हि सुरश्रेष्ठ सुराणामग्रजोऽसि यत् ।
अग्रपूजामिमां मत्वा गृहाणेदं विषं प्रभो ॥ 1.45.24

Hari, said to Rudra "O Chief of celestial beings you were born the earliest among the devatas. Therefore, while churning the ocean whichever is produced first shall be offered to you. Considering it the first offering, O Lord accept this venom."

Hari's role as Tortoise

इति श्रुत्वा हृषीकेशः कामठं रूपमास्थितः।
पर्वतं पृष्ठतः कृत्वा शिश्ये तत्रोदधौ हरिः ॥ 1.45.29

Having heard these words, the controller of the sense organs, Viṣṇu, assumed the form of a tortoise reclined in the ocean supporting the mountain on its back.

Many things came out...

अथ वर्षसहस्रेण सदण्डस्सकमण्डलुः ।

पूर्वं धन्वन्तरिर्नाम अप्सराश्च सुवर्चसः ॥ 1.45.31

In this way thousand years rolled by. In the beginning came out Dhanvantari holding a staff and a water pot (carried by ascetics) and apsaras of high lustre.

उच्चैश्रवा हयश्रेष्ठो मणिरत्नं च कौस्तुभम् ।

उदतिष्ठन्नरश्रेष्ठ तथैवामृतमुत्तमम् ॥ 1.45.38

O Foremost among men (Rāma) uccaiśravas, the best of horses (the celestial horse), kaustubham, the best jewel and also nectar came (from churning).

Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 46)

Indra destroys the embryo of Ditī

23 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 07: Ditī requests for blessings of Kaśyapa for a son to kill Indra

Verses 08 – 15: Ditī narrates the imminent birth of a son in 10 years to Indra

Verses 16 – 18: Indra enters the womb of Ditī while she was asleep and destroys the embryo into 7 parts

Verses 19 – 21: Indra seeks forgiveness of Ditī for the act

Ditī's request to Kaśyapa

हतपुत्राऽस्मि भगवंस्तव पुत्रैर्महाबलैः।

शक्रहन्तारमिच्छामि पुत्रं दीर्घतपोऽर्जितम् ॥ 1.46.2

"O adorable one, your highly powerful sons, (devatas) have killed mine thru extensive austerities. I want a (mighty) son capable of killing Indra.

पूर्णे वर्षसहस्रे तु शुचिर्यदि भविष्यसि।

पुत्रं त्रैलोक्यभर्तारं मत्तस्त्वं जनयिष्यसि ॥ 1.46.6

"If you remain pure and clean, on completion of a thousand years you will give birth to a son through me who will be the lord of the three worlds".

Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 47)

Last leg of journey before meeting Janaka

23 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 06: Ditī requests that the 7 parts become the seven guardians of maruts (regions of wind)

Verses 07 – 10: Viśwāmitra says this is the region where Indra attended on Ditī

Verses 11 – 18: Viśwāmitra narrates the lineage of Ikṣvāku kings till date who ruled Viśālā

Verses 19 – 23: Viśwāmitra and the two princes stay over night at the place

The Seven Maruts

वातस्कन्धा इमे सप्त चरन्तु दिवि पुत्रक ।

मारुता इति विख्याता दिव्यरूपा ममात्मजाः ॥ 1.47.4

O Son, all these seven are my sons of celestial beauty. They will become presiding deities for Vāta Skandhā (divisions of wind) and let them be well known as maruts wandering in the universe.

The Seven Maruts

ब्रह्मलोकं चरत्वेक इन्द्रलोकं तथाऽपरः।

दिवि वायुरिति ख्यातस्तृतीयोऽपि महायशाः ॥ 1.47.5

Among them, one will move about in Brahmaloaka, another in Indraloka, and the third, well known as vāyu will move around in the sky.

चत्वारस्तु सुरश्रेष्ठ दिशो वै तव शासनात्।

सञ्चरिष्यन्तु भद्रं ते देवभूता ममात्मजाः ॥ 1.47.6

O best of devatas by your command the other four sons will remain celestial, and will range about in four directions.

The Maruts

A modern perspective...

- **From highest to lowest, the five main layers are:**
 - Exosphere: 700 to 10,000 km (440 to 6,200 miles)
 - Thermosphere: 80 to 700 km (50 to 440 miles)
 - Mesosphere: 50 to 80 km (31 to 50 miles)
 - Stratosphere: 12 to 50 km (7 to 31 miles)
 - Troposphere: 0 to 12 km (0 to 7 miles)

Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 48)

Ahalyā's curse...

34 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 08: Conversation between Viśwāmitra and king Sumati

Verses 09 – 13: Rāma's question about the hermitage near Mithilā

Verses 14 – 23: Indra visits Gautama's hermitage in his absence and his interaction with Ahalyā

Verses 24 – 30: Gautama curses Indra & Ahalyā for their behavior

Verses 31 – 34: Rāma will redeem the curse of Ahalyā after 1000s of years

Rāma's question about Āśrama

मिथिलोपवने शून्यमाश्रमं दृश्य राघवः ॥ 1.48.11
पुराणं निर्जनं रम्यं पप्रच्छ मुनिपुङ्गवम् ।

At the sight of an old uninhabited, beautiful and desolate hermitage in a grove near Mithilā, the descendant of the Raghus enquired of the foremost among the ascetics

श्रीमदाश्रमसङ्काशं किञ्चिदं मुनिवर्जितम् ॥ 1.48.12
ज्ञातुमिच्छामि भगवन् कस्यायं पूर्वमाश्रमः ।

"O Venerable one I wish to know why this auspicious looking hermitage was deserted by ascetics? To whom did this belong in the past."

Gautama's Āśrama

हन्त ते कथयिष्यामि श्रुणु तत्त्वेन राघव ॥ 1.48.14
यस्येदमाश्रमपदं शप्तं कोपान्महात्मना ।

"O Descendant of the Raghus I shall tell all you about
this hermitage cursed by the wrath of a great man.

गौतमस्य नरश्रेष्ठ पूर्वमासीन्महात्मनः ॥ 1.48.15
आश्रमो दिव्यसङ्काशस्सुरैरपि सुपूजितः ।

O Best among men this hermitage resembling a
celestial retreat and wellhonoured even by devatas
once belonged to illustrious Gautama.

Gautama curses Ahalyā

तथा शप्त्वा स वै शक्रमहल्यामपि शप्तवान् ॥ 1.48.29

इह वर्षसहस्राणि बहूनि त्वं निवत्स्यसि ।

वायुभक्षा निराहारा तप्यन्ती भस्मशायिनी ॥ 1.48.30

अदृश्या सर्वभूतानां आश्रमेऽस्मिन्निवत्स्यसि ।

Having cursed Indra, he also cursed Ahalyā: 'You will be staying here for thousands of years without food and subsisting on air, lying down in ashes, doing penance, without being seen by any living beings in this āśrama'.

Rāma will redeem you

यदा चैतद्वनं घोरं रामो दशरथात्मजः ॥ 1.48.31
आगमिष्यति दुर्धर्षस्तदा पूता भविष्यसि।

'When the son of Daśaratha, the unassailable Rāma enters this dreadful forest, you will be cleansed (of this sin)'.

तस्यातिथ्येन दुर्वृत्ते लोभमोहविवर्जिता ॥ 1.48.32
मत्सकाशे मुदा युक्ता स्वं वपुर्धारयिष्यसि।

'O Wicked natured one by offering hospitality to Rama, without covetousness and passion, you will happily live with me by regaining your present form'.

Bālakāṇḍam (Sarga 49)

Indra's and Ahalyā's curses redeemed

22 verses in the Sarga

Verses 01 – 05: Indra requests the Devas to redeem him of the curse of Gautama

Verses 06 – 10: Devas and the Pitṛ devas do the needful to redeem Indra's curse

Verses 11 – 16: Rāma redeems Ahalyā of her curse

Verses 17 – 21: Gautama and Ahalyā return to continue their austerities

Verse 22: Rāma sets out towards Mithilā

Beware of bad acts!

अफलोऽस्मि कृतस्तेन क्रोधात्सा च निराकृता ।
शापमोक्षेण महता तपोऽस्यापहतं मया ॥ 1.49.3

'By his (Gautama's) wrath I have been deprived of my vitality. She (Ahalyā) has been deserted by him. He **has lost his ascetic energy** through the pronouncement of this great curse'.

Rāma's magic touch!

शापस्यान्तमुपागम्य तेषां दर्शनमागता ॥ 1.49.16
राघवौ तु ततस्तस्याः पादौ जगृहतुस्तदा।

With the expiry of the period of the curse, the Raghavas (Rama and Lakshmana) speared and she became perceptible when Rama touched her feet.

Rāma leaves for Mithilā

रामोऽपि परमां पूजां गौतमस्य महामुनेः।

सकाशाद्धिवित्प्राप्य जगाम मिथिलां ततः ॥ 1.49.22

Having received due hospitality from the great ascetic Gautama Rama also set out towards Mithila.

॥ मङ्गल-श्लोकाः ॥

स्वस्ति प्रजाभ्यः परिपालयन्तां न्यायेन मार्गेण महीं महीशाः ।
गोब्राह्मणेभ्यो शुभमस्तु नित्यं लोकाः समस्ताः सुखिनो भवन्तु ॥

1

काले वर्षतु पर्जन्यः पृथिवी सस्यशालिनी ।
देशोऽयं क्षोभरहितो ब्राह्मणाः सन्तु निर्भयाः ॥ 2

अपुत्रा पुत्रिणः सन्तु पुत्रिणः सन्तु पौत्रिणः ।

अधनाः सधनाः सन्तु जीवन्तु शरदां शतम् ॥ 3

शृण्वन् रामायणं भक्त्या यः पादं पदमेव वा ।

स याति ब्रह्मणः स्थानं ब्रह्मणा पूज्यते सदा ॥ 4