



॥ श्रीमद्वाल्मीकि रामायणम् ॥

Introduction

March 19, 2017

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

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

Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇam Verses & Meaning from <http://www.valmikiramayam.net>



Specialty of Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇam

Providing several life principles

An illustration...

Illustration from Ramāyaṇam

(Rāvaṇa: Case in point Stage 1: Develop strength)

- Become well qualified in all knowledge
 - Mandodari's description of Rāvaṇa's younger days (Yu. Ka. 111)
- Make great efforts to get material riches
 - One head offered in sacrifice after every 1,000 years of penance to Brahma
 - Get boon from Brahma (although asked for immortality – request modified – Manuṣya not in his list) (Ut. K. 10)

इन्द्रियाणि पुरा जित्वा जितन् त्रिभुवणं त्वया ।

सुपर्णनागयक्षाणां दैत्यदानवरक्षसाम् ।

अवध्योऽहं प्रजाध्यक्ष देवतानां च शाश्वत ॥ 19

नहि चिन्ता ममान्येषु प्राणिष्वमरपूजित ।

तृणभूता हि ते मन्ये प्राणिनो मानुषादयः ॥ 20

Illustration from Ramāyaṇam

(Rāvaṇa: Case in point Stage 1: Develop strength)

- Develop a vast measure of “Greatness”
 - Conquer the three worlds
 - Great skills of managing people, resources etc.
 - Commit the best resources for doing great things
 - Lavish sacrifices, dānam, Propagate vedas, art, literature, war craft
 - **Acquire extraordinary strength, ego**

Rāvaṇa's Greatness

- Hanuman's description of Rāvaṇa (Su. K. 49)
 - भ्राजमानं ततो दृष्ट्वा हनुमान् राक्षसेश्वरम् ।
मनसा चिन्तयामास तेजसा तस्य मोहितः ॥ 16
 - अहो रूपमहो धैर्यं अहो सत्त्वमहो द्युतिः ।
अहो राक्षसराजस्य सर्वलक्षणयुक्तता ॥ 17
- Rāma's description of Rāvaṇa (Yu. K. 59)
 - अहो दीप्तो महातेजा रावणो राक्षसेश्वरः ।
 - आदित्य इव दुष्प्रेक्षो रश्मिभिर्भाति रावणः ॥ 26
 - सुव्यक्तं लक्षये ह्यस्य रूपं तेजस्समावृतम् ॥ 27
 - देवदानववीराणां वपुर्नैवंविधं भवेत् ।
 - यदृशं राक्षसेन्द्रस्य वपुरेतत्प्रकाशते ॥ 28

Illustration from Ramāyaṇam

(Rāvaṇa: Stage 2: Adhārmic Indulgence)

- Greatness is devoid of Goodness
 - Violate Dharma (as there is no fear of anything)
 - Lose control of all senses
 - Go on a rampage and subdue everyone
 - No dissent, only pleasing things are told (heard)
 - Go to any level to achieve what is desired
- Some episodes confirming this
 - Gods complaining to Mahāviṣṇu (Bā. K. 15)
 - When he was in Janasthāna – how fearful it was (Ar. K.)

Snippets of evil & its effects

- Rāvaṇa – Sītā Dialogues

- स्वधर्मो रक्षसां भीरु सर्वथैव न संशयः ।
- गमनं वा परस्त्रीणां हरणं संप्रमथ्य वा ॥ (Su. K. 20.5)

It is the privilege and prerogative of the community to which I belong to rape other women and carry them away

- इह सन्तो न वा सन्ति सतो वा नानुवर्तसे ।
- तथा हि विपरीता ते बुद्धिराचारवर्जिता ॥ (Su. K. 21)

Are there no good people in Lanka, are there no honest men who care for righteous conduct and would you not be guided by them?

- Hanuman's remarks about Rāvaṇa (Su. K. 49: 17 – 20):

- What prevents him from attaining the fullness of power is his adharmā
- He does not employ all his powers to push righteousness causes to fruition
- By his continued career of cruelty & unscrupulous use of power he has made everybody his enemy and all good people are against him

Illustration from Ramāyaṇam

(Rāvaṇa: Stage 3: Get curses)

- Invite the wrath of people and get curses
 - Anaranyā – one descendant of Ikṣhvāku will kill you (Yu. K. 60)
 - Vedavatī – I will come to make your end, Is she Sītā? (Yu. K. 60)
 - Because this wicked person does not care for the honour of women his end will come thru the other sex (Ut. K. 24)
 - Nandi – Monkeys will come and destroy your whole family (Yu. K. 60)
 - Rambhā – Nalakubera episode - Head will blow to seven pieces if you approach an unwilling woman (Ut. K. 26)
 - Punjikasthālā on her way to Brahma – Head will blow to 100 pieces if you approach an unwilling woman (Yu. K.13)

Illustration from Ramāyaṇam

(Rāvaṇa: Stage 4: Destruction begins)

- Listen to nobody, no good counselling possible
 - Mārīca to Rāvaṇa – give up the plan of abduction
 - रामो विग्रहवान् धर्मः साधुः सत्य पराक्रमः । (Ar. K. 37:13)
 - Malyavān – Grand Uncle of Rāvaṇa feels Rāma is divine, asking Rāvaṇa to give back Sītā
 - Rāvaṇa dismissed the idea, felt Rāma has been kicked out of the kingdom and not strong enough etc.
 - Jaṭāyu to Rāvaṇa – return back Sītā (Ar. K. 50: 20)
 - षष्टिवर्ष सहस्राणि जातस्य मम रावण । वृद्धोहं त्वं युवा धन्वी सशरः कवची शरी । न चापि आदाय कुशली वैदेहीं न गमिष्यसि । न शक्तस्त्वं बलाद्धर्तुं वैदेहीं मम पश्यतः ॥

Illustration from Ramāyaṇam

(Rāvaṇa: Stage 5: Destruction imminent)

- Completely get blindfolded to emerging reality
 - Human beings are not worthwhile creatures;
 - तृणभूता हि ते मन्ये प्राणिनो मानुषादयः । (Ut. K. 10: 19 – 20)
 - Rāma can never be a match for me by any stretch of imagination
 - अङ्गुल्या न समो रामो मम युद्धे समानुषः । (Ar. K. 48: 19)
 - यः स्त्रियो वचनाद्राज्यं विहाय ससुहृज्जनम् ।
 - अस्मिन्व्यालानुचरिते वने वसति दुर्मतिः ॥
- Very late realization of the reality
 - Losing hundreds of warriors, Indrajit, Kumbhakarna in war
 - Trying all unhero like activities to escape and losing the plot anyway
 - Ordering Sītā to be taken in Puṣpaka Vimāna to see Rāma dead
 - Informing Sītā that Rāma is dead, Making an attempt to kill Sītā

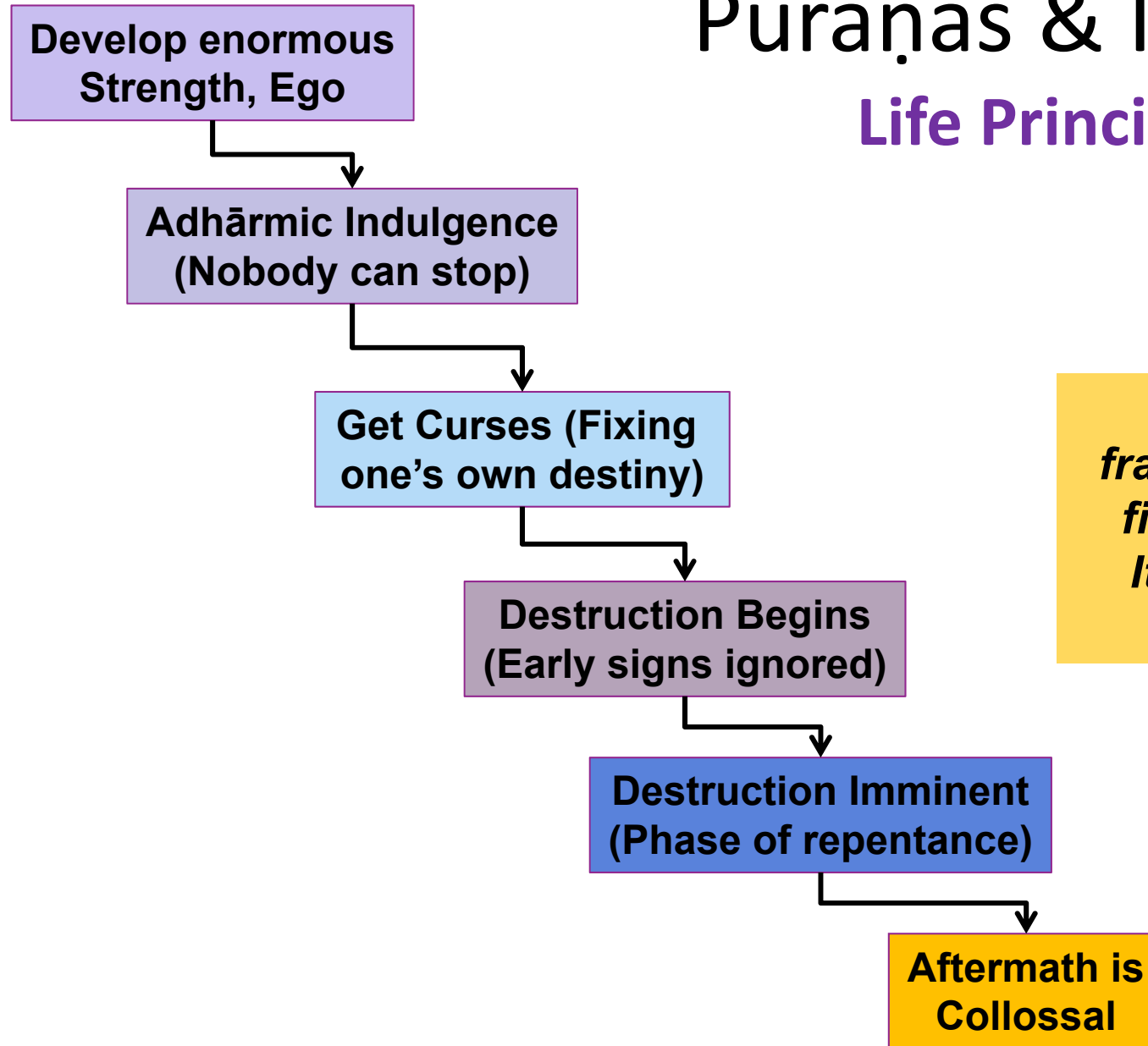
Illustration from Ramāyaṇam

(Rāvaṇa: Stage 6: Aftermath is colossal)

- By his act his whole family and race has to perish (Yu. K. 38)
 - एको हि कुरुते पाप कालपाशवश गतः ।
 - नीचेनात्मापचारेण कुलं तेन विनश्यति ॥ 7
 - Mārīca's advise to Rāvaṇa (Ar. K.)
 - अकुर्वन्तोऽपि पापानि शुचयः पापसंश्रयात् ।
 - परपापैर्विनश्यन्ति मत्स्या नागहृदे यथा ॥
 - बहवः साधवो लोके युक्ता धर्ममनुष्ठिताः ।
 - परेषामपराधेन विनष्टाः सपरिच्छदाः ॥

Purāṇas & Itihāsas

Life Principles



An universal framework that you find in Purāṇas & Itihāsas relevant even today

Bāla Kāṇḍam

In a nutshell

- 1 – 4: Nārada – Vālmīki conversation, epic composition, lava and kuśa reciting to rāma
- 5 – 7: King Daśaratha and Ayodhyā
- 8 – 18: Birth of Rāma and others, Gods as Vāṇaras
 - 19 – 23: Rāma & Lakṣmaṇa accompany Viśwāmitra
 - 24 – 31: Tāṭakā vadha, Rāma obtains missiles from sage
 - 33 – 37: Purāṇic legends – 1
 - 38 – 47: Gangā avataraṇa, samudra mathana
 - 48 – 50: Redemption of Ahalyā
 - 51 – 65: Legend of Viśwāmitra
 - 66 – 73: Rāma – Sītā marriage
 - 74 – 76: Rāma – Paraśurāma encounter
 - 77: Happy days after marriage

Bāla Kāṇḍam

Sarga 1

- Gist of Rāmāyaṇam, called *Samkṣepa Rāmāyaṇam*,
- 100 verses that summarise the main epic
 - Bāla Kāṇḍam : verses 8 to 18
 - Ayodhyā Kāṇḍam : verses 18 to 28
 - Araṇya Kāṇḍam : verses 29 to 57
 - Kiṣkindhā Kāṇḍam : verses 58 to 71
 - Sundara Kāṇḍam : verses 72 to 78
 - Yuddha Kāṇḍam : verses 79 to 90
 - Uttara Rāmāyaṇam: verses 91 to 97
 - Phala Śruti : 98 to 100

Bāla Kāṇḍam (Sarga 1)

तपः स्वाध्यायनिरतं तपस्वी वाग्विदां वरम् ।
नारदं परिपप्रच्छ वाल्मीकिर्मुनि पुङ्गवम् ॥ १-१-१

The Sage-Poet Valmiki asked the Divine Sage Narada, a thoughtful-meditator, an eternally studious sage in scriptures about the Truth and Untruth, a sagacious thinker, and a sublime enunciator among all expert enunciators... [1-1-1]

Bāla Kāṇḍam (Sarga 1)

कोन्वस्मिन् सांप्रतं लोके गुणवान् कश्च वीर्यवान् ।
धर्मज्ञश्च कृतज्ञश्च च सत्यवाक्यो धृढव्रतः ॥ १-१-२

"Who really is that person in this present world, who is principled and also a potential one, a conscientious one, a redeemer, and also a truth-teller and self-determined in his deed... [1-1-2]

Bāla Kāṇḍam (Sarga 1)

चारित्र्येण च को युक्तः सर्व भूतेषु को हितः ।
विद्वान् कः कः समर्थश्च कश्चैकप्रियदर्शनः ॥ १-१-३

"Who is he conduct-wise blent with good-conduct...
who in respect of all beings is benign... who is adept
and also the ablest one... also uniquely good to look
to... [1-1-3]

Bāla Kāṇḍam (Sarga 1)

आत्मवान् को जितक्रोधो द्युतिमान् कोऽनसूयकः ।
कस्य बिभ्यति देवाश्च जातरौषस्य संयुगे ॥ १-१-४

"Who is that courageous one, who controlled his ire,
who is brilliant, non-jealous and even whom do the
gods fear, when provoked to war... [1-1-4]

Bāla Kāṇḍam (Sarga 1)

एतदिच्छाम्यहं श्रोतुं परं कौतूहलं हि मे ।
महर्षे त्वं समर्थोऽसि ज्ञातुमेवंविधं नरम् ॥ १-१-५

"All this I wish to listen from you, oh! Great Sage, as you are a mastermind to know this kind of man, and indeed my inquisitiveness is immense..." Thus Valmiki enquired with Narada. [1-1-5]