



NEW

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Ramo Vighrahavaan Dharmaha

Rama is the Indweller in every Body. He is the Atma-Rama, the Rama (Source of Bliss) in every individual. His blessings upsurging from that inner Spring can confer Peace and Bliss. He is the very embodiment of Dharma of all the Codes of Morality that hold mankind together in Love and Unity. The Ramayana, the Rama story, teaches two lessons: the value of detachment, and the need to become aware of the Divine in every being. Faith in God and detachment from objective pursuits are the keys for human liberation.

Sri Ramachandra was born on a day when the planet Sukra (Venus) enters Meena (Pisces). The month of His advent marks the beginning of Vasantha ritu (Spring). It is the time when the sun enters Mesha Rasi (Aries). Sri Rama's incarnation as a human being was for the purpose of promoting peace and happiness in the world. "Ramo vighrahavaan Dharmah" ("Rama is the very embodiment of Righteousness"). It was as if Righteousness itself had incarnated on earth. Dharma and Rama are inseparable.



Rama's life falls in two parts: the earlier and the later. In the earlier part, Rama figures as the heroic warrior who vanquished powerful persons like Parasurama, Vali and Ravana. Rama excelled not only in physical strength but also in intelligence and character. It is impossible to describe all the virtues of Rama. Every Avatar has six types of powers: all-encompassing Prosperity, Righteousness, Fame, Wealth, Wisdom and Renunciation (or non-attachment). God is the possessor of these six attributes. Sri Rama had all these six attributes in equal measure. Every Avatar of God in every age and every place has these six attributes.

Importance of Truth and Righteousness

In the Ramayana Sathya (Truth) and Dharma (Righteousness) are the most important concepts. The Vedas, which are regarded as their very life-breath by Bharatiyas, have proclaimed: "Sathyam Vada; Dharmam Chara" ("Speak the Truth; Act Righteously"). In order to honour the plighted word of his father, Rama elected to go to the forest leaving Ayodhya. Rama stood out as an upholder of Truth to fulfil the promise of his father, to maintain the traditions of his Ikshvaku dynasty, to protect his country and for the sake of the welfare of the world.

Three women symbolising the three gunas



In the first twelve years of Rama's life, He encountered three types of women. When he went with the sage Vishwamitra to protect his sacrifice, he encountered the ogress Thataki. He put an end to her without any compunction or aversion. After Vishwamitra's sacrifice was completed, Rama went with the sage to Mithila. On the way, he came across Ahalya, who had been transformed into a stone. He gave her life, absolved her of sin through penitence and restored her to her husband. At Mithila, he encountered Sita. He accepted Sita without any hesitation. What is the inner meaning of these three incidents? They show that even from his boyhood Rama displayed extraordinary qualities and stood out as an example to the world. Thataki, the first woman he encountered symbolises the Tamas quality. He destroyed the Tamasic quality. Ahalya represents the Rajo guna. He taught the right lesson to Ahalya, purified her and sent her safely to her place. He took to himself Sita who

represented the Satwic quality.

Rama's Personality

Rama had a gentle, soft and mild nature. He had always the inner, not the outer, vision. He moved with his father-in-law and mother-in-law, not as a son-in-law, but as a son. He seldom opened his mouth to speak to his sisters-in-law or their maids. He never lifted his face and cast his eyes on them. All women older than himself, he revered as he revered his mother, Kausalya. He considered all who were younger than him as his younger sisters. He stuck severely to Truth. He surmised that if his father broke his word, the dynasty will earn great dishonour. So, in order to uphold the plighted word of his father and to maintain his reputation, he exiled himself into the forests for fourteen years. His father did not ask him to do so; but he learnt it from his stepmother, Kaikeyi. He never argued or gave a reply-he gave up the kingdom and started straight to the jungle. He acted correctly according to the words spoken by him, and suited the action strictly to the word. Rama had a heart filled with compassion. He gave refuge to anyone who took shelter in him and surrendered to him.



The Ramayana holds out Rama as an embodiment of ideal qualities. As a son, friend, husband, master and ruler, He was an ideal without a parallel. In the world one may be an ideal son, but not an ideal friend. One may be an ideal friend, but not an ideal brother. But Rama stands out unique as an embodiment of all ideal attributes. The four sons of Dasaratha also signify the four ends of Life: dharma (righteousness), artha (wealth), kama (desire), and moksha (liberation). These four ends of life give fulfilment to human life. No human can find fulfilment without these four. There is a close connection between dharma and artha. Wealth should be acquired in a righteous way. Similarly, every desire should be a sacred and righteous one. Sri

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Rama was the embodiment of this dharma. That is why it is said Ramo Vighrahavan Dharma.

The Rama principle is laden with many subtle secrets. The Rama story is of exemplary excellence ethically, spiritually and materially as well. The story of Rama teaches us how a man should live in the world and conduct himself in the family as well as in society. It also teaches us how one should retain one's individuality and shape one's personality. Rama was an Embodiment of Dharma, which is the basis for the entire Universe. A true human being is one who follows and practices the principle of dharma. The principle of Rama is most sacred, sublime and glorious. There is nothing in the world that cannot be achieved by cultivating the Rama Thathwa. Though thousands of years have elapsed since the story of Rama took place, the Rama Principle is deeply imprinted in the hearts of the people. The Rama Principle is ever fresh, ever new and embraces infinitude itself.



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