

Akram Youth

November 2020 | English

Dada Bhagwan Parivar

Ramayana for Youth Part - 2



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Editorial

Dear Friends,

With great excitement and joy we present to you the second issue of Akram Youth covering one of the great ancient epic tales of India, 'The Ramayana'. The main characters of Ramayana, Lord Rama, Mother Sita, the King of Lanka Ravana and main events such as Rama's exile into the forest, the dangerous war against the ten-headed Ravana, along with smaller events and characters, leave a deep impression on our hearts. In this edition, there are many such interesting events that have been included. It is our hope that the exact understanding of these events will help bring a new perspective to live life...

We'll meet again next month for the third and last issue of Ramayana!!!

Jai Sat Chit Anand

-Dimple Mehta

Note: This issue was edited based on information regarding the Ramayana that were collected from the available religious scriptures, literature, and other such mediums. The sole purpose of this is to provide appropriate guidance for today's youth.



Lakshmana's Ultimate Service

Like a fish's life depends on water, Lakshmana's life depended on his older brother Lord Rama and he had intentionally surrendered his entire life to the service of Rama.

When Prince Rama was exiled from Ayodhya to the forest, tears rolled down Lakshmana's sorrowed face, he quickly ran to his brother Lord Rama, grabbed his feet and said “Oh My Lord. I am your servant and you are my Lord. Please bestow your grace upon me and allow me to be at your service.”

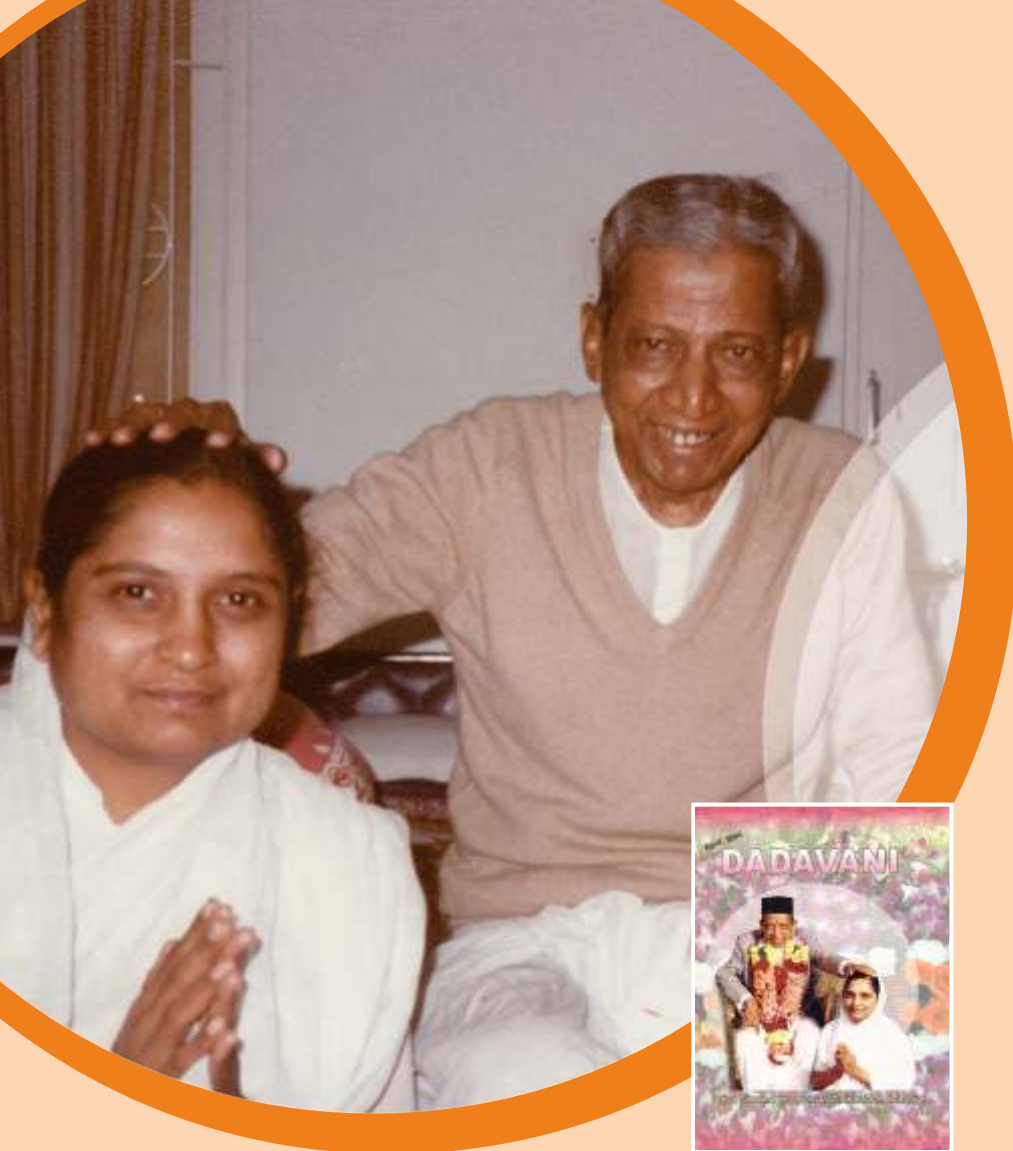
Lord Rama tells Lakshmana to get permission from his mother Sumitra. With utmost respect and humility, Lakshmana went to his mother and expressed his intense desire to serve Lord Rama. His mother understood his exceptional intent and granted him permission to join Rama in the forest.

The wealth and luxury of Ayodhya or the pleasures of the worldly life did not mean anything to Lakshmana as compared to the opportunity to serve Rama. He even explained his heartfelt intent to his wife and after getting her consent, he put on ordinary clothes and left with Rama and Sita for the forest.

During their exile in the forest they would gather wood and leaves to make a hut and a bed to sleep in. They would collect fruits and other edible items along with firewood to cook. Lakshmana would massage Lord Rama's tired feet after a long day of walking in the forest, he would always be at his service. Lakshmana had acquired a special power to stay awake for days and days!! It is due to this special power that he was able to stay up all night during demon attacks and provide special protection to Mother Sita. He never worried about his own life. During their exile, he remained as the protector of Lord Rama and Mother Sita against countless adversities and demons. Placing his own life at risk, he played an important role in defeating Ravana's undefeatable army and bringing Mother Sita back. After seeing Lakshmana's revered devotion and intent of service towards his elder brother Rama, the King of the Gods, Indra, also praised him. Today, even after thousands of years, Lakshmana's name is remembered naturally with Lord Rama's. People worship the statue of both Lord Rama and Lakshmana together.



Just as Lakshmana made the best out of the golden opportunity that he got to serve Lord Rama, Niruma also made the best out of the golden opportunity to serve Dadashri and she spread Dadashri's [Gnan] to each and every house!



Pujya Niruma was also fully dedicated to Dadashri and she remained sincere to him till the end without getting distracted. This gave Dadashri the opportunity to mold her into the absolute state. She pleased Dadashri and became worthy of his grace and compassion. She attained a state of oneness with Dadashri. They were like two souls in one body, from the very first day till the end. She remained in Dadashri's uninterrupted service for twenty years.

Dadashri would also say **“Niruben, you have nurtured me like a mother. You have cared for me like a daughter and served me like a nurse.”**

Lakshmana and Niruma Can Both Be Called A **'ONE MAN ARMY'**

Lakshmana left the kingdom and its glory to be with Lord Rama in the forest. He used all his powers in the service and protection of Lord Rama. In the forest, he stayed alert every moment, day and night and kept guard. He dedicated his entire life for the sole purpose of sincerely serving and protecting Lord Rama and Mother Sita.



In the same way, Niruma, was a daughter of a multi-millionaire family and a doctor herself. She dedicated her life to serve Dadashri and his wife Hiraba. She used all her capabilities and skills for people to understand Dada's teachings for decades to come, by being vigilant and recording his speech. She carefully and heartily took care of Dada's body and sincerely surrendered her life to Dadashri's mission for the salvation of the world.

The devotion she had in her heart for Dada Bhagwan is referred to as the nine types of devotion.

Entrust the Rudder of your Worldly Life to the Saviour of this World

As Rama, Lakshmana and Sita were traveling into the forest they noticed a boatman named Kevat. Rama requested to ride in his boat. Kevat was an ardent worshiper of Lord Rama, and he received a priceless opportunity to be of service to him.

Come Let's See How Kevat Wittily Got His Spiritual Work Done!

Kevat: Oh compassionate one, you have magical feet. The stone turned into a beautiful woman (Ahilya) because of the dirt from your feet. I am afraid of what would my wooden boat turn into with the magical dirt from your feet. What if it sinks? Then, I would lose my earnings, I would not be able to provide food for my family! No Lord No... I cannot risk taking you on my boat.

Rama: Then how are we to cross the Ganga river?

Kevat: There is one way. First, I will wash your feet. I will scrub the dirt off of them. Then, I will drink that water; and if nothing happens to me, only then will I let you step foot in my boat.

Rama understood the devotion behind the intents of his worshipper and with a smile on his face, he agreed and granted him permission. Kevat fulfilled his wish with

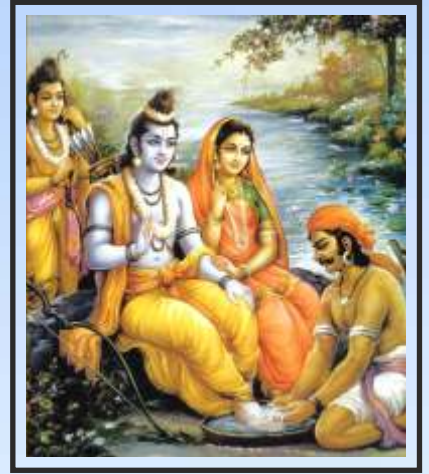
utmost devotion. Then, with great joy, he helped Rama, Lakshmana and Sita cross the Ganga river. Sita took off one of her rings and signaled Rama to give it to Kevat. Kevat declined accepting the ring in exchange for the ride.

Kevat: Oh Lord! Would one washerman charge another washerman, or one haircutter charge another? We are both sailors. I help people cross the Ganga river with my boat. You help us cross this worldly life with your boat of Knowledge. So how can I charge you?

“Oh Lord, I do not need anything. Just as I helped you cross this river, in that same way, help me cross this ocean of life.”

See friends! Kevat maintained his intention to serve and wittily got his spiritual work done by praying to Lord Rama to help him cross the ocean of life.

Through the merit karma of countless lifetimes, we have gotten the rare circumstance to meet the living Gnani, in these bad times. We should also recognize the absolute Self that has manifested within the Gnani. We should do all tasks in a way that would make Dadashri proud and we should become worthy of His grace. We should hold on to Dadashri's finger to cross the ocean of worldly life, all the way to Mahavideh.



**Entrust the Rudder of
Your Worldly Life to
the Savior of this
World, Sit in Dada's
Boat, You Will Attain
Salvation.**



The Squirrel

in the Construction of Rama's Sea Bridge



When they found out Sita was on the other end of the sea in Lanka, Rama's army decided to make a bridge to get to the other end. For this, King Sugariv's gorilla monkeys started placing stones in the sea while chanting Rama's name. While working on this, they witnessed a thrilling event.

Monkey: What are you doing here?

Squirrel: I am helping my Lord Rama make the sea bridge.

Monkey: Hahaha. You need large boulders to build Rama's sea bridge. What are you going to do?

Squirrel: I am going to use all my strength to serve and I will dedicate myself in service for this great cause of Lord Rama's.

Upon hearing the squirrel's response, the monkey got terribly upset as it was busy with the sea bridge work. The monkey grabbed the squirrel by its tail and threw it far away. As luck would have it, the squirrel ended up landing in Lord Rama's hand, who was watching all of this.

The squirrel was frightened and shaken up. When it touched Rama's hand, it was like it came back to life.

If Lord Rama takes care of you, then no one can harm you.



Did you know that the small pebbles this squirrel is placing is making our sea bridge stronger!

Lord Rama called all the monkeys and lovingly explained, “Did you know that the small pebbles placed by the squirrel are making our bridge stronger! Small tasks are always particularly important. The love and the intention of total dedication with which you do any service is most important. This small squirrel has such love in its heart and the intent to serve.”

Rama explained further, “Always remember, however small or big, every task is equally important. For the successful completion of any big task there are so many evidences that have to come together. Therefore, each one should be encouraged and whatever efforts one is making should be supported.”

Lord Rama turned to the squirrel and explained, “Dear squirrel, I apologize for any harm that has been caused by my army. Thank you so much for all your efforts. Your love and service has touched my heart. You should continue the work you are doing with happiness.” After saying this, Rama stroked the squirrel's back lovingly with three fingers. With the touch of Rama's fingers, three stripes were formed on the squirrel's back. Even today, we can see those three stripes on the Indian squirrel's back.

This one small squirrel was so dedicated in its service towards the great work of building Rama's sea bridge that even though its contribution was small, because it was done heartily, it received the wonderful grace of Lord Rama!

Hundreds of thousands of mahatmas are excited to give their service in Simandhar Swami and Dadashri's mission. Mahatmas who have the good fortune to give service as a pillar, a nail or even a small peg in this huge tent of world salvation should do the work heartily, sincerely and with full commitment to become worthy of Dadashri's grace and get their spiritual work done.

Understand Your Future



This story is about the war between Rama and Ravana's army when Lakshmana became unconscious. At night when the doctor examined him, he informed everyone that the only chance of saving his life is if someone were to retrieve the Sanjeevani plant on top of the Himalayas. There Hanuman took on what seemed to be an impossible task by making a firm decision of completing it. He took Lord Rama's blessings and with Rama in his heart, he left to procure the plant immediately.

Have you ever made a firm decision in your life?



Ravana got word of this information through his spy. He appointed the demon Kalanemi to create obstacles so that Hanuman would be unable to complete the task. Kalanemi planned to mislead Hanuman. He created a beautiful lake, ashram and garden with his magical powers in the middle of the route. Kalanemi turned himself into a saint and started chanting Rama's name. In this way he drew Hanuman's attention towards himself.

The deceitful saint started singing praises of Lord Rama. Attracted by this, Hanuman landed there. Hanuman asked for some water so Kalanemi showed him the lake. He said, "Take a shower there, and afterwards I will teach you how to accomplish your goal in only one minute." In this way, Hanuman got delayed in achieving his goal.

So have you met such a Kalanemi?

**"I will support you in your goal." Has anyone ever mislead you from your path?
Have you ever unknowingly given your friends this place in your life?**

Luckily, when Hanuman went to shower at the lake, with the grace of a goddess, he figured out Kalanemi's bad intentions and tricks. Hanuman became filled with anger, he immediately turned around, slammed Kalanemi to the ground who died instantly. After that, without getting distracted along the way, Hanuman reached the mountain, obtained the plant and returned back before sunrise. The plant was used to save Lakshmana's life.

What steps will you take to uproot your mistakes before they make you break your firm decision?



A Student's Experience



From childhood, I had the goal of becoming an engineer. After 10th grade, I decided to pursue the science field. I worked very hard in 11th grade and passed with great marks. After seeing my determination and sincerity, my dad was immensely proud. My father got me a smartphone before the beginning of my 12th grade, with the intention that the newer, useful technology would help me study better and obtain better marks. Using this, I was able to talk to friends about sharing school materials and sift through questions, which was extremely helpful for my studies. I started watching videos on YouTube for my physics class experiments and got a lot of joy and excitement while easily understanding the material.

The cell phone was always with me and slowly my attention started going to other apps and games. Occasionally, I would play games to relax. Sometimes, I would have study related discussions or just goof off with my college and tutoring friends. Sometimes we would watch comedy videos and movies on YouTube. On my first trisemester exam, my score dropped significantly. My father, mother, and I were worrying how would I get admission into a good college?

In November 2018, we came to celebrate Dadashri's 111th birthday (Janma Jayanti) and visited 'The City of Happiness' (Anand Nagari). We went to see a show called 'This Distance Can be Eliminated' which was about understanding the uses and misuses of cell phones and their effect on family life and studies. Right after seeing the show, I realized that, while using my cell phone for my studies I had been wasting more time and misusing my phone. Later, we met with an Aptaputra who was there and I told him about my goal to study well. With his guidance and by staying in regular touch with him, I learned to use my phone only when necessary. Then with Dadashri's blessings, I began to put my time and strength to good use.

In 12th grade, I got great scores, and I was able to fulfill my goal of attending a good engineering college.

Moral Values of Our Elders

After Sita's groom-selecting ceremony, Rama and Sita began to plan their wedding. At that time both Rama's father King Dasharatha and Sita's father King Janak met in the city of Mithila. The conversation that took place between them is very beautiful.

King Dasharatha! Mithila welcomes you. I am fortunate that you have graced this land with your presence.

King, we got your order and wrapped in the thread of your of love, we came here.

King Dasharatha

King Janaka

I had never even dreamt of being this fortunate. By coming into a relationship with your royal family, the prestige of my lineage has increased even more. Otherwise, I am only the father of the bride, your servant. How can I even compare myself to you?

You are right King Janaka. How can I compare myself to you? Today, you are a giver, and I am a receiver, a beggar, one who has come to your door asking for your daughter. The donor is the giver, he is always greater. Even the scriptures say, the receiver is subservient to the donor. That's why whatever order you give, I will obey.

You are so generous King Dasharatha. Your love binds me. My head is held high with pride of having the opportunity to welcome a godly personality such as yours.

The hearts of all the citizens present there were filled with pride for their King and his [new] relations. Even today, when we read this, we feel a sense of great awe!

Such were our ancestors and their ways of interactions...

Such was the humility and discretion of our ancestors which lead to ideal worldly interactions.

At that time, people would focus on their own duties which is how they were naturally able to maintain reverence for one another! They only focused on the great virtues of others which is how they were able to maintain the humblest of intents and discretion in their worldly interactions!

Let's see what Dadashri has to say about this...



May the Speech, Conduct and Humility Be Captivating

The Lord has said, “Keep discretion and humility in speech.” One should speak with discretion, one should not speak without discretion. There is a liability in that. While in a court in Surat, a lawyer said, “My honorable judge is dozing.” Now, the judge had come after having eaten a heavy sweet dish, and dozed off slightly; so does that mean he had committed an offense? Now, you have to obtain a judgement from him. The lawyer was an honest man, he spoke candidly. However, the judge did not become angry on that day. The judge conversed delightfully on that day, but in the end, his final judgment was not in the lawyer's favor. This is because such a thing should not be said. There should be discretion in speech. As long as you have the need of this world's interaction, you should speak in a way that is pleasing to the listener.

First comes the speech, then the conduct and then the discretion; all three of them should be captivating. The conduct of the Gnani Purush is such that it captivates our mind. Even his speech is such that it captivates our mind and his humility is also such that it captivates our mind. Even though ‘He’ is at such a high state as the Gnani Purush, ‘He’ still maintains more humility than us.

‘Our’ speech, conduct and discretion, all three of them are captivating. They are such that they spellbind the mind. Sooner or later that should happen for you too. You will have to become like that. If you pursue the one who has become like that, then can you or can you not become like him?

Questioner: I can.

Dadashri: That is all, there is nothing else left for you to do. Pursue him. The debt of infinite lives has to be cleared in one lifetime. So, you will have to be careful, won't you?

Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Ravana's Past Life

In a small city in India, lived an average merchant named Nayadat. His wife's name was Sunanda and their children's names were Vasudat and Dhandat. In that same city, there was a merchant named Sagardat and his wife Ratanaprabha. They had two children, Gunvati and Gunvaan. Gunvati's father and her brother Gunvan, got her engaged to Dhandat.

Now in this same city lived a great, wealthy merchant named Shrikant who always wanted to marry the beautiful Gunvati. Her brother Gunvaan found out about this. Gunvaan was very greedy. Although Gunvati was already engaged to Dhandat, an average merchant, Gunvaan made plans to marry his sister off to Shrikant.

One priest told Vasudat, “Your older brother Dhandat's fiancé Gunvati,

her brother Gunvaan wants her to marry Shrikant.” Upon hearing this, Vasudat was filled with anger. He went to kill Shrikant at his home with a sword in the middle of the night. Vasudat saw Shrikant sleeping and attacked him with the sword. Shrikant woke up and defended himself with his own sword. Both died there. Because both of their deaths occurred in an adverse internal state, they were reborn as deer in the Vindhya forest.

Because these incidents happened due to Gunvati, the people of the city did not allow her to marry Dhandat. Dhandat was deeply saddened by the sudden loss of his dear brother, the insults faced, and the loss of his fiancé. He left the city and went away. On the other side, after the engagement was called off with Gunvati, no one else was able to marry her; and due to the gossip in the city and the



self-negativity, she passed away. She was also reborn as a deer in the Vindhya forest with Vasudatta and Shrikant.

After being each other's enemies, they both [Shrikant and Vasudatta] were reborn as deer in the same place. Gunvati was also born as a deer with them. In this way, for so many lifetimes, they came together in different forms, as aquatic animals, amphibians and any one to five sensed beings except for humans. In each lifetime, they would fight each other for some reason or another and die.



Friends, did you know??

After many lifetimes, Dhanu was reborn as Shri Rama, Vasudatta was reborn as Lakshmana, and Gunvati was reborn as Sita. For many lifetimes, both Dhanu and Vasudatta took the form of two loving brothers. Their revenge against Shrikant after many lifetimes continued in the form of Ravana.

Shri Rama obtained Self-realization from Guru Vashishta and after clearing his karma, he was able to obtain ultimate liberation in that very lifetime. Even till this day Sita, Ravana, Lakshmana, because of their vengeance of many lifetimes, still have not been freed from the bondage of karma.

The Line of Demarcation

Given by Dada

Three Danger zones in the Akram Path

Questioner: After attaining Gnan, what can lead to a downfall in the worldly life?

Dadashri: Only three things are responsible in causing a spiritual downfall in the worldly life after attaining Gnan. You are free to enjoy all kinds of good and delicious foods, wear all the beautiful and fashionable clothes you want, wear fashionable glasses, go and watch movies, eat anything you want. However, you should not eat any meat. That is the first thing. Secondly, you should not consume any alcohol and thirdly, you should not have any thoughts about a woman who is not married to you. If the thoughts arise about a woman who is not rightfully yours then do pratikraman. These are the only three danger zones responsible for causing a downfall. There is no other thing that can lead to a downfall. Downfall means lost forever. That is why 'We' say, "Do not accompany 'Us' to these lofty heights of Gnan, because if you fall from here, there will be no trace of even your bones left to pick up." This [Gnan] takes you to great heights. It is better to fall from a lower height than this one. At least something can be salvaged. There are no other danger zones in our path. Other than this, carry on with your job or business, do everything, enjoy your snacks and gourmet foods, have your tea. Even if you drink tea, tea is an intoxication, but it will not hurt you like the intoxication of the ego, will it? Consuming alcohol makes the Self unconscious. Then all the Gnan is lost and one binds a life form in hell. The same is the case with infidelity. So, take note and be forewarned, these three; meat consumption, alcohol ingestion and illicit sexual interaction will keep you in eternal bondage. You do not like these danger zones, do you?





Are you ready to celebrate
Dada Bhagwan's first
Online Janma Jayanti?

#Poem

Ramayananu ek ek patraa, jane koi sanheeta che;
Aa mahakavya na kendrama, sansaar ne pavitrata che.

Mahanatanu madha nahi, sathe aatesaya vinumrata che;
Dheythi juda Janak vidheyhi, koi nirmal sarita che.

Jamne Ganga tari swayum, bhavatarak emana ruhni che;
Charan dhoi charanraj pidhi, kevat ketala guni che!

Jagate Lakshmana, seva ane adhintani paracasta che;
Swarthani jagya jade nahi, jemna ruve-ruve nishta che.

Maan-vachaan-kaaya ane swashe swash, Shri Ramne arapaan che,
Jagate sadaye, udaharan roope Lakshmanjinu samarpan che!

Vaanar sena ke naanee khishkoli, darekni seva amulya ganaya che,
Darek kalyanaa nimit che, jene chookha bhaav thai che.

Ek-ek patra ahi, aneck sadagunono samanvay che;
Ramayana nathi matra sastra, hartu-fartu vidhyalaya che.



By Dada's Youth

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hanuman dada
please give us
the strength
to remain pure...

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