

Ramana Bhaskara





Speech delivered in Palakoderu, dated 5-4-98.

- Whoever examined the Ramayana meticulously stated that the essence of Vedas has taken the form of Ramayana and the Lord Himself has incarnated as Rama. Most of the Indians chant the name of Rama. Rama Chandra implies Bliss, Love and Light.
- There is a lot to be learnt by reading Ramayana. You must read the Ramayana if you want to learn the attitude of service. Ramayana describes the dharma (righteousness), artha (wealth), kama (desire) and moksha (liberation) comprehensively. The artha (wealth) and kama (desire) must be within the ambit of dharma (righteousness). You cannot get rid of rajas and tamas if your artha (wealth) and kama (desire) are not within the ambit of dharma (righteousness). The mind won't get subsided. You cannot develop the sattvic attribute. Without sattvic attribute, you cannot enjoy the Liberation related Bliss.
- You relish the God's temple more than the temple of Heart. The Atma Rama (ie Rama in the form of Self) resides within the Heart whereas the Rama's idols exist in Rama's temple. The Rama's idols are as false as the physical body. The true Rama exists within the Heart in the form of Self.
- When Rama was exiled into forests, He stayed for a while in the region of Chitrakoota mountain. Then Bharata met Rama and said: "My Mother Kaikeyi has committed a blunder. Now it is the right time to get it rectified. She has asked for the boon out of anger. Therefore please come back to Ayodhya now and rule the kingdom." Then Rama replied: "I will come back to Ayodhya after 14 years of my stay in the forests as ordained by our father. Till then you must rule the kingdom. Oh! Bharata, it is not your Mother's desire but it is the will of God that I have to stay in the forest in this body. Therefore don't develop hatred

for your Mother but develop Love for her." This is called as surrender. Then Bharata said: "Oh! Rama, if you rule the kingdom, the people will co-operate with you whereas if I rule the kingdom, I will have to go around the people seeking their co-operation."

- There is a river called Mandakini near the Chitrakoota mountain. While describing the river, Lord Rama told Sita: "It is a very pure river. How did it become so pure? It is pure because several people who are devoid of likes-dislikes, who have transcended lust-anger and who have performed severe penance and earned the merit thereof have taken bath in this river and purified it."
- 🛂 Tara's wisdom (the wife of Vali) was equivalent to Vali's strength. After Sugriva befriended Lord Rama, he invited Vali for a fight. Vali didn't understand why Sugriva invited him again and again inspite of being defeated for several times. Then Tara, Vali's wife said: "Out of fear Sugriva has fled away for several times till now but is inviting for a fight again. It implies that Sugriva has got the refuge of someone who is stronger than you." But Vali was very egoistic. He thought that He could kill even the one who has given shelter to Sugriva. Then Tara did not blame Vali of committing a blunder but said: "Performing bad deeds and speaking bad words bring in rivalries and jealousies. Why do you get them on doing good deeds, Oh! Vali?" Look at the glory in those words. She has pointed out indirectly that Vali was committing a blunder. Finally when Vali collapsed onto ground (due to Rama's arrow), Tara approached him and said: "You love me immensely but now you love this ground more than me. Therefore you have hugged the ground now." Hence Tara indicated that by performing thoughtless deeds, such dangers get invited.

- One of the Ravana's ministers advised him thus: "Sita is not giving her consent to become your wife. However you are trying to narrate her about your power and glory. This is of no use. You have the power to put on any form. Why don't you put on the form of Rama? Then Sita will accept you." Ravana then replied: "As per your advice, if I put on Rama's form, the lust and desire within me will vanish off. What shall I do with Sita then?" Such is the glory of Lord Sri Rama. Here Ravana himself described the glory of Rama.
- Ramadasa said: 'If you want to advance in your devotion, view Rama in each and every thing. Their names and forms are not relevant. Try to view Rama in each and every one. They may or may not have money. They may or may not have scholarship. Still try to view Rama who exists in everyone's heart. You will then attain Self Realization." Any amount of pranayamas or pilgrimages will not divert your mind towards the Heart if you lack the Divine attributes. Don't look at the other's filth. Look at their goodness alone. Excessiveness is forbidden in any aspect.
- It is very difficult for a person to change his nature which is the result of past deeds, past habits and past tendencies. Without severe penance and God's Grace it is not possible for a person to change his nature. If your devotion is true and there is sincerity in your effort, you will become recipient of God's Grace.
- The devotees may be criticized but it is their poetry alone which is still alive and not the poetry of the worldly people. If the worldly people write the poetry today, it vanishes off tomorrow. Observe whether the poetry written by non devotees could be sustained today? No. Poetry derived from likes-dislikes prevails today but vanishes off tomorrow. It

- is very difficult to work whereas it is very easy to criticize. Without possessing love for humanity, how can one write poetry?
- God's will alone prevails. He is a true devotee who states: 'Oh! God. Your will alone prevails. Therefore let your will be my will.' Those who have dedicated their mind to Lord Rama, they alone can remain pure and egoless. Even in the midst of hardships resembling the scorching fire, they can remain undisturbed.
- During their stay in the forest, once Rama told Sita: 'If the mind, speech and body are within our control, how does it matter whether we stay in Ayodhya or in the forest? When all the three are within our control, it doesn't matter where ever we stay."