

Sri RamacharitraManjari by Sri Raghavendra Tirtha

English translation by Sri Hayavadan V Panchamukhi

(Sri Ramacharitra Manjari is one of the earlier works of Sri Raghavendra Tirtha Swamiji. The great saint has condensed the whole of Ramayana in just eleven Shlokas for the benefit of the persons who want to recite the whole Ramayana everyday. Late Sri Raja S. Gururaja Charya had translated the original Sanskrit work of Sri Raghavendra Swamiji in Kannada. Sri H.V. Panchamukhi grandson of Sri Gururaja Charya and Son of renowned economist of the country Dr. V.A. Panchamukhi has translated the Kannada version to English. We hope that the readers will rejoice the same - Editor)

Once, long ago, all the Devas lead by Brahma and Rudradeva went to Lord Laxminarayana, to appease him thus - "Oh lord of lords!! Ravana and Kumbhakarna, the Rakshasa brothers have become haughty and arrogant. Blessed with the boons from us, they are distressing all devatas. The saintly and the good are now under their control and live under constant fear because of these rakshashas. oh Lord!! We wish and pray thee to relieve us from the hands of these rakshashas by incarnating yourself as a human being."

On hearing the pleading of the Devatas, Sri Laksmipathi assured the devatas, smilingly, that he would do as they wished. After instructing the devatas to incarnate as vanara sainya - an army of monkeys, he disappeared from their presence and relieved them of the apprehensions.

Later, Sri Hari incarnated as Sri Ramachandra as one of the sons of King Dasaratha and Queen viz, Kausalyadevi of Ayodhya. King Dasaratha had three queens Kausalyadevi, Sumitradevi and Kaikeyidevi. Lakshmana and

Shatrughna were born to Sumitradevi at around the same time. Bharata was born to Kaikeyidevi. These children of King Oasaratha grew in the comforts of the palatial atmosphere,

After a few years, Vishwamitra rishi knew through yogic vision that Sri Hari was growing up as Sri Ramachandra at Ayodhya. Vishwamitra went to Oasaratha maharaja and requested him to send Sri Rama to protect him while he performed the penances and holy sacrificial rituals. Sri Rama, accompanied by his brother Laxmana, sought His blessings of their father and embarked on the journey with sage Vishwamitra. Vishwamitra taught Sri Rama two mantras, which would fulfill all wishes - 'Bala' and 'Atibala'. The omnipresent and all knowledgeable Lord Hari blessed many deserving

individuals during his incarnation as a human being. Sri Rama then killed Thataka who was destroying the holy rituals. He also killed other rakshasas like Subahu. Thus he protected the various yagnas and Yagas being performed by Vishwamitra and other rishis ensuring their uninterrupted completion.

Sri Rama learnt from Vishwamitra about the Swayamvara - selecting of the groom by the bride herself, of Janaka's daughter Sitadevi. He proceeded towards Videhanagar - Janaka's Kingdom. On the way, he delivered Ahalya who was cursed in the form of a rock from Gautamamuni. After absolving this sadhvi with his presence, he reunited Gautamamuni and Ahalyadevi and honoured their hospitality and proceeded further.

At Mithilapuri, Lord Rama was warmly welcomed by Janaka Maharaja. Janaka had put a condition for the Swayamavara. Whoever wished to participate had to pull the string of the famous Rudra's Bow that Janaka had received as a boon for his undaunted penances. The bow was so heavy that no one could lift it, leave alone pulling the string. Sri Ramachandra, with the blessings of Sage Vishwamitra lifted the bow with great ease. under the pretext of pulling the

string, he broke the bow into two. Sitadevi - the incarnation of Laxmi, was overjoyed and when she saw her chosen husband perform this feat and immediately garlanded him declaring the Swayamvara complete and choosing Sri Rama. Sri Ramachandra, in the presence of King Dasaratha and all his family members, married his inseparable Sitadevi with lots of pomp and grandeur.

May the great Laxminarayana bless us with happiness.

After this grand marriage ceremony Sri Ramachandra, accompanied by Dasharatha, Kausalyadevi, Sitadevi, Lakshmana and other brothers and relatives, left for Ayodhya. On the way he encountered Lord Parusharama who said, "On the pride of Raghukula!! I hear that you have broken the celestial bow of Shiva. Now, I desire to test your strength further. This is the bow of Lord Vishnu (Vaishnavadhanus). Which cannot be strung by anyone other than Sriman Narayana. Now that you are famous for breaking the bow of Shiva, if you pull the string of this bow, you must be Sriman Narayana himself."

Hearing this the lotus-eyed Sri Ramachandra very easily strung the bow given by Sri Parashurama. Since the Kshatriya rules require an arrow to be shot out of a strung bow, Sri Ramachandra asked Sri Parashurama, what should be used as the aim. Sri Parashurama asked Sri Rama to shoot the demon 'Tapomaya' who had entered Sri Parashurama's heart through Brahma's boon. Parashurama pushed the demon out of his heart and said "Go ahead, shoot him, he is your aim!" Thus the demon was killed and Sri Rama and Sri Parashurama showed that they both were incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Sri parashurama gave the Vaishnavadhanus to Sri Rama as a present!

All the relatives and friends who had accompanied Sri Ramachandra were awestruck at this amazing event and praised Sri Rama profusely. The citizens and rishis of Ayodhya welcomed the return of Sri Rama and Sitadevi

with lots of festivities. Vashishtamuni praised Sri Rama as the epitome of goodness and purity and opined with the elders that he should be coronated as the Yuvaraja of Ayodhya as soon as possible. Everyone in Ayodhya were overjoyed at this decision and reiterated to King Dasharatha that such an event will bring happiness to one and all,

May the one thus praised by the citizens of Ayodhya bless us all.

'On learning that King Dasharatha had decided to coronate Sri Rama, Manthara, the daasi of kaikeyidevi, could not tolerate it. She ill-advised Kaikeyidevi to request for the fulfillment given of two boons which King Dasharatha had during the wars of Devathas and Asuras. This would enable Kaikeyidevi's son Bharatha to become the yuvaraja. Kaikeyidevi asked King Dasharatha for two boons. One; Sri Ramashould be exiled to the forests for 14 years and two; Bharatha should be named as the heir 'prince and coronated. This stopped Sri Rama's coronation to the anguish of King Dasharatha and the citizens of Ayodhya.

Sri Rama agreed to coronate Bharatha happily as he considered fulfilling his Father's promise was his duty. Also, Sri Ramachandra could fulfill his promise to the Devathas and kill Ravana. Sri Rama, accompanied by Sitadevi and Laxmana, sought permission and blessings

of his parents and then proceeded towards the forests. He gently requested the citizens, who were unable to bear Sri Ramachandra's predicament and had followed him to the forest, to return back to Ayodhya.

On the banks of river Ganga, Sri Rama accepted the offerings of Guha, the boatman. Guha then took Sri Ramachandra, Sitadevi and Laxmana across river Ganga. Lord Rama tied his hair into a beautiful knot using Vataksheera. On the banks of river Ganga, sage Brihaspathi's son, sage Bharadwaja worshipped Sri Rama. Later Sri Ramachandra crossed river Yamuna and settled in the pure, calm and peaceful place called Chitrakoota.

At Ayodhya, King Dasharatha breathed his last, as he was unable to bear the sorrow of separation from Sri Rama, Sitadevi and Laxmana. Then Vashishtamuni called back Bharatha and Shatrughna from Kaikeyadesha and appraised them of all that had transpired in their absence. He also asked them to perform the last rites of their father.

Later, Bharatha decided to bring Sri Rama back to Ayodhya. He, accompanied by Vashishtamuni and his mothers (Kausalyadevi, Surilitradevi and Kaikeyidevi), followed the trails of Sri Ramachandra till Chitrakoota. Bharatha met Sri Ramachandra and appraised him of the death of their father. The aggrieved Sri Ramachandra offered his Thilanjali to the departed soul. He consoled Bharata and convinced him to return to Ayodhya and rule the kingdom justly during his absence. May the Lord Sri Rama be our benefactor.

Bharata again requested Sri Rama to return to Ayodhya. Sri Rama replied, "After finishing the agreed period of 14 years in forest, I will surely return to Ayodhya. Till then you can take my padukas (Bharata requested at least that

form Sri Rama) and rule Ayodhya as my representative." Thus assured Bharata and his queen mothers returned to Ayodhya. A few days later, an asura named Turanga, who had entered the eye of the crow Jayanta, tried to trouble Sitadevi. Sri Ramachandra killed the rakshasa by piercing blade of grass in the eye of the crow Jayantha who actually was Indra's son. He freed Jayanta from the asura and sent him back to his celestial adode. Sri Ramachandra, Sitadevi and laxmana left Chitrakoota and reached Atrimuni's ashram. Accepting Atrimuni's respectful hospitality, Sri Ram's family left for Dandaka forest. There Sri Rama met Sharabhanga rishi who wished to attain salvation by entering the fire live in front. of the lord. Sri Rama, the benefactor of his disciples blessed the aged Sharabhanga with supreme salvation - Moksha. Long ago a gandharva named Tumbura sinned with Urvashi and was cursed by Kubera and hence was born as rakshasha named Viradha. Sri Rama killed the troublesome Viradha. Then he placed the body of the rakshasa in a cave and freed Tumbura and sent him to gandharvaloka. later many rishis came and requested Sri Rama to kill Ravana. Sri Rama relieved them of their apprehension and promised them to do as they wished. He received the bows, arrows and the arrow basket named Akshaya belonging to Indra from the sage Agastya. May the Lord Sri Ramachandra absolve us of all sins. .

While Sri Rama, Sitadevi and Laxmana were living happily at Panchavati, Shoorpanakha, the sister of Ravana, got enamoured by Sri Rama. Ravana had promised to marry her to any bridegroom she chose as he had accidentally killed her husband. Hence Shoorpankha had come to Panchavati in search of a groom. There she saw the handsome and attractive Sri Rama sitting with Sitadevi. She said "On handsome man please marry me". Sri Rama with a smile on his lips replied UDue to a vow taken I can have only one wife in this

birth. But I have a brother who is better looking than me. Go woo him if you wish!!" and sent her to Laxmana. Knowing Sri Rama's intentions, Laxmana cut the Rakshasi's nose and ears and sent her packing. Angry and dismayed at her own predicament Shoorpanakha sent Khara and Dooshana along with a large army to take revenge. These rakshasas rushed to fight Sri Ramachandra and Laxmana and they were killed with ease along with their whole army including Trishirsha. Shoorpanakha was very much disappointed with this and she rushed to Ravana and narrated the whole story.

Ravana was enraged and decided to separate Sitadevi from sri Ramachandra as revenge. He forced his uncle Mareecha to help him. Mareecha transformed himself into a golden deer and enticed Sitadevi by its beauty. Sitadevi cajoled Sri Rama to catch the deer for her. Sri Ramachandra followed the deer into the forest and knowing that the deer was magical illusion, he killed Mareecha. But even while dying the crooked Mareecha played trick. He yelled in Sri Rama's voice "Hey Sita!!! Hey Laxmana!" Although Laxmi incarnate Sitadevi knew that all was just an illusion she sent Laxmana to assist Sri Rama.

The moment Laxmana left, Ravana came recognised Ravana and his intent through her yogic powers and created her clone and disappeared from the scene to Kailasa to be worshipped by Shiva and parvathi. Unaware of this Ravana kidnapped "

Sitadevi look-alike and imprisoned her in Ashokavana in Lanka. When Sri Rama saw Laxmana, he feared foul play and rushed back to the Ashram. When he did not find Sitadevi in the ashram, the all-knowing Sri Rama acted sorrowful and beseeched every plant in the forest to look for her. While Ravana was dragging Sitadevi, Jatayu, an old vulture friend of King

Dasharatha fought valiantly to save Sitadevi. But he was injured seriously and fell to the ground. Sri Rama, searching for Sitadevi, met Jatayu on his way and learnt of Ravana's misdeed. He blessed Jatayu with supreme bliss Mukthi and moved ahead. Sri Rama killed Kabandha and released Danu, Indra's servant from Kabandha's clutches.

May the Lord Sri Rama protect us from all

Sri Rama and Laxmana left Panchawati and reached Matanga Rishi's ashram on the banks of pampa River. They met Shabari who had been waiting for Sri Rama and constantly chanting his name. Shabari was actually a cursed apsara by Indra's wife Shachidevi for being very arrogant. Shabari served Sri Rama with fruits and prayed to Sri Rama for salvation from the curse. Sri Rama was pleased by her sublime devotion and granted her Mukti. Then Sri Rama and Laxmana proceeded to the Rishyamooka Mountains

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There they met Hanumantha. When they asked who he was, Hanumantha replied humbly, "Oh Lord Rama! I am the son of Vayudeva and am known as Hanumantha. I am Sugreeva's friend and a humble servant at your feet". Further he apprised Sri Rama of the miseries and misfortunes that had befallen Sugreeva and requested for Sri Rama's help. Hanumantha introduced Sugreeva to Sri Ramachandra. Sugreeva bowed at the feet of Sri Rama and said "O Ramachandra, we will assist you in finding Sitadevi if you could kill Vali, my brother!" Sri Rama acceded to this and both of them pledged to do as agreed in front of the holy fire Agni. Later Sugreeva described the prowess and requested Sri Rama to demonstrate his strengths. Sri Rama pierced with just one arrow seven Thalavrukshas and felled them. These trees were seven rakshasas who had Brahma's boon of immortality. After demonstrating this

astonishing prowess, Sri Rama killed Vali and . made Sugreeva the king of Kishkindha. Sri Rama and Laxmana spent four months of rainy season in the caves in the valley of Mallyavanthahills.

May the loi'a Sri Rama bless with rainfall of happiness and health.
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Sri Rama spent four months in Mallyavantha hills and he noticed that Sugriva had totally forgotten his promise and immersed in the royal pleasures. Sri Rama sent Laxmana to awaken Sugreeva from his stupor. Meanwhile, Hanuman was also reminding Sugreeva and advising him to keep up his due promise. Just then, Laxmana barged angrily and reminded Sugreeva of his agreement with Sri Rama. A straightened Sugreeva accompanied Laxmana and Hanuman and begged Sri Rama to forgive him. With Sri Rama's pardon and blessings, Sugriva called his monkey warriors and despatched them in search of Sitadevi in all 10 directions.

A pleased and hopeful Sri Rama called Hanuman and said .0 son of Vayu!! You are the only one capable of completing the search successfully. So take my personal ring and give it to Sitadevi and bring anything from her!" Hanuman humbly accepted his orders and proceeded with Angada and other monkeys towards Mahendra parvatha in the south. On the banks of the ocean he left other monkeys i;ind jumped across the ocean of hundred yojanas and reached Lanka. Hanuman searched all over and found the look-alike of Sitdevi seated under a tree in Ashokavana. He b.owed to her and informed her of the well being of Sri Rama. He gave Sri Rama's ring and received the Choodamani, a hair jewel pendant, in return. After pacifying Sitadevi that Sri Rama would be coming soon, Hanuman went on a rampage destroying every other part of Asokavana. He killed many rakshasas like Akshakumara who came to fight with him. He wanted to bring Ravana to his senses but just made him angry.

Ravana ordered the rakshasas to set Hanuman's tail on fire. Hanuman burnt the whole city of Lanka and cross the ocean full of pearls and jewels. He took the joyous monkeys back to Kishkindha from Mahendraparvatha. There he apprised Sri Rama of Sitadevi's well being and gave her Choodamani to him. He requested Sri Rama to kill Ravana

Accepting Hanuman's suggestion, Sri Rama camped at the banks of the southern ocean with his army of monkeys. Vibhishana, the exiled Ravana's brother due to his allegiance to Sri Rama, arrived at Sri Rama's camp and surrendered to him. Sri Rama killed a few rakshasas who had come to fight him. He also blessed Varuna, the lord of the seas. Then he got a bridge of stones built over the ocean and crossed over to Lanka with the monkey army. The monkey warriors killed many rakshasas at the behest of Sri Rama

While the monkeys were busy fighting the rakshasas, Ravana came to fight Sri Rama. Rama defeated him and disgraced him and said "O king of Rakshasas!! Go and enjoy the pleasures of your palace for tonight and return tomorrow to fight without any hope for your life." Totally ashamed Ravana returned to his palace and woke up his sleeping giant brother . Kumbhakama. He induced Kumbhakama to fight Sri Rama. The gigantic Kumbhakama fought valiantly against Sri Rama but was killed soon. Ravana now beckoned his son Meghanada Indrajit for the fight Indrajit bound all the monkeys with Naga Pasha - ropes of snakes. Garuda, Sri man Narayana's eagle had come to serve Sri Rama, the incarnation of Sriman Narayana. Garuda freed all the monkeys by gobbling up all the snakes. When Indrajit fired the Naga Pashas again the monkey hero Laxmana lost consciousness. This time, Sri Rama sent Anjaneya to fetch Sanjivini herbs. Anjaneya got the whole Gandhamadhana Mountain and once again Laxmana and the army were freed. But, when Indrajit tried to fire the Naga pasha again Sri Rama protected

everyone with the Vignana Astram. He also sent Laxmana to killing Indrajit in a well-fought battle.

After Indrajit was killed Sri Rama destroyed the whole army of Ravana and killed Ravana too. Sri Bahma and all the devatas showered flower petals on Sri Rama to applaud and show their great happiness at this event. Then Sri Rama called on Sitadevis look alike. When Sitadevi lookalike was asked to prove her purity, she entered the fire. Lord Agni replaced the look alike with the true Sitadevi from Kailasa and presented her to Sri Rama. Sri Rama happily accepted her and coroneted Vibheeshana as the king of Rakshashas and the city of Lanka. Then along with all his people he proceeded to Ayadhya on Pushpakavimana, a flying chariot. Sage Vashishta coroneted Sri Ramachandra and Sitadevi as the King and Queen of Ayodhya. Sri Rama blessed every one who came with him and lived happily with Sitadevi.

May Lord Rama bless us with all our wishes.

Agasthyamuni and all other sages praised Sri Ramachandra as under his rule the world prospered. Sri Ramachandra gave his worn necklace to Hanuman embraced him and blessed him with the position of Brahma. He sent all the kings including Sugreeva to rule their respective kingdoms. He coroneted Bharatha as the crown prince. He appointed Laxmana to look after the administration of the city and its people.

Once a dog came to seek justice after being hit by a sanyasi. Sri Rama after due enquiry punished the sanyasi to look after the temples of kalanjala. Later, when Chyavanamaharshi came to Sri Rama for protection, Sri Rama sent Shatrughna to kill the son of madhu rakshasa Lavanasura in the forest., Once, Jangha, who in the form of Shudra shambooka, was meditating on his head

wanting to achieve Rudra position. Since he was not deserving, Sri Rama killed this monster and brought the son of Brahma, who had been killed by Jangha, back to life. Once Shwetha raja was performing penance by fasting and Agasthya rishi came asking for food. Shwetha Raja gave Agasthyamuni a necklace given by Brahma. Later, when Sri Rama came and accepted the hospitality of Agasthya at his ashrama, Agasthya gave the necklace to Sri Rama.

May Sri Ramachandra protect us from all evils.

Sri Rama performed Ashwamedayaga and invited all the kings including Sugreeva for one year. Once the Kaikeya Raja sent Girisena to Ayodhya to seek protection from the troubles and tortures of three crore kshasha children of Ahaibosha. Sri Rama sent Bharat to Gandharvanagar, who killed all these rakshashas and thus the world returned to peaceful times. During the rule of Sri Ramachandra the world turned into Brahmhaloka. This led to no one aspiring for Brahmhaloka. Sri Rudradeva requested Rama to return to his heavenly abode so

that people could aspire for something at least. Rama assured Rudradeva that he would do so soon. Once, Durvasa muni, famous for his anger, came to Ayodhya and asked Sri Rama for food to be prepared instantaneously. Sri Rama prepared four types of food and served to Durvasa muni. Durvasa was all praises for Sri Rama.

Sri Rama coronated Sitadevi's sons, Kusha and Lava as the heir princes. Kusha and Lava were incarnations of Indra and Agni. Sri Rama went northwards to Shwethadwipa, where Sitadevi worshipped him with chamaras on both sides in the form of Shree and Hree. Hanuman held the Royal Umbrella. In this

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divine and blissful form Brahma and all Devas worshipped Lord Sri Rama, Sita Devi and Hanuman and Sri Rama lived happily in their heavenly abode.

Sri Raghavendrathirtha named this concise and comprehensive story of Sri Rama in eleven Shlokas (canto) as Sri Ramacharitra Manjari. Sri Raghavendrathirtha prays Sri Rama to bless this splendid work. It is an amazing compendium of all the relevant facets of Ramayana and the brevity is the hallmark of all, Sri Raghavendra swamy's creations.

We pray to Lord Rama through Sri Raghavendrathirtha to, bless us with good knowledge and wealth and protect us from all evils.

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