

|| OM namo bhagavate vasudevaya OM ||

1 After having taken avatara, the Supreme personality Lord Rama and the other smart sons of the King started growing well in the palatial homes. For the Lord who is forever complete in time, space and attributes, the growth was only in the blurred eyes of the worldly people.

2 The father (Dasharatha) obtained the highest happiness watching his four sons daily; The King, glancing at the moon like face of Lord Rama, obtained bliss like joy.

3 The mothers, city dwellers, ministers, ladies of the chambers and all other citizens were also very pleased and satisfied with inner happiness (at seeing the Lord).

4 In the lineage of the glowing moon, Indra was born as 'Gadhi'; He had a son named Vishwamitra; With the power of boons, he had become a Brahmin and was the well wisher of the world; He arrived at Ayodhya.

5 Lord Rama was prayed upon by Vishwamitra to protect his yagnas; Though the father was very scared, the Lord, who is worshipped by Siddhas, got sent along with the sage; Along with Lakshmana, He arrived at the hermitage of the Siddhas.

6 Only to bless Sage Vishwamitra, Lord Rama, along with Lakshmana, accepted Astras from the sage; Brahma and other devatas, who were the presiding dieties of those weapons, came down directly and bowed to Lord Rama.

7 After that, Lord Rama quickly killed the Rakshashi Thataka, who was indestructible by anyone apart from Him due to Brahma's boons, with his arrow; Subahu, who could not be killed by anyone due to Rudra's boons, was killed by the Lord and consequently He protected the Yajna of Vishwamitra.

8 Lord Rama, in order to excuse the boon of Brahma, then threw Maricha into the ocean with his arrow; He had been granted the boon of indestructibility by Brahma; The Lord then killed other Rakshasas as well.

9 Around that time, the Swayamvara of Janaki had been proclaimed by King Janaka in every possible direction; Hearing that, the Lord, along with Lakshmana, followed the son of King Gadhi and went towards Videha.

10 Ahalya, who was cursed by her husband (Sage Goutama) due to Indra doing the drama of forcing himself on her, had turned into a stone idol; With the darshana of Lord Rama, she turned into a human again; Lord Rama united Ahalya with her husband Goutama once again.

11 Lord Rama, in order to show the world the greatness of devotion and the incomparable grace of devatas, reverted the great devotee Ahalya into a lady, as per the request of Indra; He left after being worshipped by her.

12 Lord Rama, who was resplendent and had a blue hue, was shining like the Indra Neela gem; He is the Supreme One in this world; He had a glow which was more than that of innumerable moons and was charming; He was holding the bow and arrow in His hand; As soon as He entered the city along with His brother, He brought immense joy to the dwellers of Videha.

13 The groups of noble men and women of Videha looked at the best amongst men and absorbed the joy of seeing His lotus like face with their eyes just like bees; It was just like how great devotees look at the feet of the Lord.

14 Then, King Janaka worshipped Lord Rama, the brother of the thousand eyed Indra who had come down to earth, along with His brother, with great devotion and respect; He also worshipped the Sage who was glowing like fire.

15 King Janaka decided that Lord Rama is the one who matches his daughter on all attributes and therefore He would be his son-in-law; The Sage, who had extreme radiance, also told the King to make Him his son-in-law.

16 King Janaka told the Sage thus - "Your words are indeed excellent; I will definitely do as you say; Let there be no doubt about it; But, the oath I have taken to give away my daughter in marriage is as follows; Please listen to it".

17 "Earlier, I had performed a penance to please Shiva and obtain an excellent weapon; Then, Shiva had granted me this bow; This bow cannot even be moved by anyone apart from Shiva himself".

18 "All the devatas including Indra, all the daityas, sarpas and gandharvas cannot even shake this bow; What then to say of humans? Due to Shiva's boon, many of my workers are able to pull this bow over here together with great effort".

19 "I started using the bow which is impossible to handle in order to test the strength and bravery of people; I took an oath for my daughter thus - Whoever lifts and ties this bow, I will give you to that person only"

20 "Hearing of this oath of mine, many daityas, danavas, yakshas, rakshasas and other kings came over here; But they were not even capable of shaking the bow"

21 "The ten headed Ravana and others started sweating profusely; Their eyes started rolling; They fell down deeply unconscious; But due to the words of Brahma, none of them were able to bring me under their control"

22 "A long time ago, Brahma, who was impressed with my penance, had granted me a boon thus - No one will be able to obtain your daughter's hand by force; And you will never have any problem with anyone who desires your daughter"

23 "Therefore, all these kings, after their ego has been bruised, have just left from here; So, let Lord Rama please satisfy my inner desire and marry this girl of mine; This is my request".

24 When the Sage replied (to the King) with "Let it be so", the King brought the bow, which was like the body of Sesa, through his servants; Lord Raghava saw that and lifted it with His left hand without any effort and raised it near His chest with a smiling face.

25 Lord Rama, who gets everything done by His mere wish, and who is infinitely strong and Supreme, pulled the bow at which it broke; How can the bow sustain His strength when no one in this Universe can?

26 Just like how the elephant of Indra breaks a sugar cane, similarly the Lord broke the bow right in the middle; He stood there, along with Lakshmana, looking at the Sage; Just like how the full moon stands.

27 The daughter of the King saw the Lord, who had lotus like eyes, broad and excellent chest, radiant skin like that of Indraneela gem, the grace of earrings which were moving, the paste of sandal which was like the blood flowing from a rabbit's wound, clothes which were shining like lightning.

28 Then, Sita, whose eyes resemble blossomed lotuses, held a garland of blossomed lotuses with both her hands and, walking very attractively, went towards Lord Rama very slowly; Having placed the garland on His shoulders, she stood beside Him.

29 After that, the people of Videha saw, along with the daughter of the King, Lord Rama who is the Supreme, the Lord of even Brahma, the One with infinite forms; Having seen them together, they felt extremely joyed.

30 Lord Ramesha thus got together with Lakshmi in a way that the entire Universe was able to see; The King of Videha sent his messengers to Dasharatha, the father of Lord Rama, with the news; The ruler of the world was extremely joyed upon hearing the news.

31 After that, the King, along with his two other sons, and with his wives, and an army of elephants, chariots and sentries proceeded quickly towards the King of Mithila, accompanied by Vashishta, the son of Brahma.

32 King Dasharatha, who was offered a lot of respect by the King Janaka, was filled with ecstasy and conducted the wedding of Lord Rama; His priest sage Vashishta, along with the son of Gadhi, performed all the homas as per the scriptures.

33 Then, the sky above was filled with lines of aeroplanes of all the devatas who had rushed there to witness the wedding; Dundubhis, bheris and other instruments were blown; The best of Gandharvas sung together in thousands.

34 The devatas, who knew fully well that Sita was the mother of the Universe, had never come for her swayamvara; Now, on the other hand, they had decorated the sky with their presence during the wedding in order to witness Lord Rama who had united with His Ramaa.

35 Just like how previously, during the swayamvara of Lakshmi, the entire group of devatas

had gathered together, similarly now the entire group of devatas, rishis and kings had gathered together on earth.

36 Just like how previously, during the churning of the ocean by Suras and Asuras for Amruta, He had united with Lakshmi, similarly Lord Rama, who has lotus like eyes, held the hands of the King's daughter and appeared resplendent.

37 The wives of the King of Videha, along with other women, had decorated themselves a lot and were roaming around everywhere; Seeing Lord Rama, along with Ramaa, the King was extremely happy and offered a lot of wealth to Him.

38 King Janaka then gave a lot of clothes, elephants, chariots, Indraneela and other jewels and other precious gifts to Lord Rama; He also gave three brides to Lord Rama's brothers.

Note: Janaka's other daughter Urmila married Lakshmana. His brother Kushadhwaja's daughters Mandavi and Shrutakeerti married Bharata and Shatrugna respectively.

39 After that, all the devatas and the ordinary humans who had come there, fully enjoyed the festivities and left for their own abodes as happily as they had come there; King Dasharatha who was filled with joy left towards Ayodhya, along with his sons.

40 In the middle of their way, Dasharatha saw Lord Parashurama, who had taken avatara in the lineage of Sage Bhrgu; He was shining like the radiance of a thousand, a lakh, or infinite number of Suns; He was resplendent with the rays of His natural radiance; He was holding the Shringa bow in His hand; He held a shining axe as His weapon.

41 In order to show the people, through examples, that Lord Rama is the "Primordial Being", Lord Parashurama came over there; He invited Him to a battle, as if He was in a competition; The King bowed to Him and pleaded out of fear.

42 "O Parashurama, the One who is fully capable! I am extremely aged; My son is still very young; You should not kill Him"; To this Parashurama replied "I shall give you three sons; But I have come here only to face Rama in battle".

43 "There is no difference between me and Him; I am the primordial Hari; He too is the same" - In order to teach this message to the ignorant, Parashurama, the best in the lineage of Bhrgu spoke thus to the King; He then spoke to Rama, the best in the lineage of Raghu.

44 "O Rama! Listen to what I say; Previously, two excellent bows were created; One was taken by the Lord of Uma, Shiva, and the other bow, which was even better, was taken by the Lord of Ramaa, Hari"

45 "Then, in order to create the impression of the truth on people, all the devatas prayed to Hari and Shankara; We are desirous of knowing the truth and therefore pray to you to please engage in a duel"

46 "After that, both Lord Ramesha and Shankara picked up those bows and got ready for battle; Since even in the heart of Hara, it is Lord Hari who resides and causes him to do all

activity, Hara became stunned like an idol in front of Lord Hari"

47 "Then, Shiva could not even lift his eyes and see, nor could he gather any strength even to walk; What then to say about him engaging in battle; Then, all the groups of devatas starting describing the great strength of Lord Hari to the world"

48 "Shankara could not even breathe without the inspiration of Lord Hari from within; That being the case, need it be even said separately that Lord Hari is stronger than Hara and that His strength much more than anyone else?"

49 "After that, Hara bowed down to Lord Hari; He glanced at him with a smiling face and blessed him; Hara left to Kailasa after that; The bow that you broke in front of all people is that same bow of Shiva"

50 "The bow that is fit for Lord Hari's hands (Shranga) is a crore times better than the bow of Shiva; That Vaishnava bow is what is held by me now; Therefore, you take this now"

51 "If you lift this bow, then you are Lord Hari Himself; There will be no doubt about it" - Saying thus, Lord Parashurama gave that excellent Shranga bow to Lord Rama, in order to show the world that the strength of Lord Hari is superior to that of Hara.

52 Lord Rama took that excellent bow and lifted it within a fraction of time; In order to clear the doubts of those who were watching, he placed an arrow in it and pulled the string.

53 In this way, the strength of Lord Vishnu, which is infinitely more than the strength of Hara, was revealed by Lord Rama; Then, Lord Parashurama, who is the primordial Being Himself, spoke in a thunder-like voice to Lord Rama.

54 "Your strength is more than that of the entire Universe; It is complete; You are verily the Supreme Being Narayana; Definitely, you are none other; You release the arrow towards that Maha Rakshasa who has spread throughout the world due to the boon of Brahma"

55 "There was a Rakshasa named Atula; He obtained control over the world due to the boon of Brahma; After granting the boon, the guru of the world Brahma told him thus 'You will die when Lord Hari faces defeat' "

56 "In order to destroy that Daitya, I, the One without defeat, behaved as if I was defeated" - After Lord Parashurama spoke thus, Lord Rama released the arrow at that Rakshasa, who had spread all over the world and was causing the destruction of the world.

57 Long ago, that Asura had obtained a boon from Shiva, in order to obtain Moksha, and had asked "I should enter the body of Lord Vishnu"; Therefore, he was in the navel region of Lord Parashurama; He then came out quickly due to the order of Lord Parashurama and was instantly burnt to ashes.

58 Lord Rama released that arrow as if He was aiming it at Lord Parashurama and killed that Asura; He appeared to be happy claiming to have destroyed the Tapas of Lord Parashurama;

Doesn't He own everything in this world?

59 Lord Hari is without a second and is supreme due to His knowledge and bliss; He is the Supreme Being; He existed before all and is the primordial Being; He knows everything at all times; Therefore, he plays a game appearing to talk through one form and listen through another form; Being the same in all forms, He enjoyed it all.

60 His behavior is such that it causes the proper knowledge of the truth to those devotees who have resorted to Him; and causes illusion to those who are not qualified; In order to do so, He, though being one, behaved and enjoyed as if He was another human being.

61 Then, Lord Parashurama, who is like the ocean of kindness to His devotees, in order to show the lack of difference, merged visibly into the form of Lord Rama even though He was initially separate.

62 As the world continued to watch, the Lord of Ramaa had united with Lord Rama in order to dispel all the doubts of His devotees; He gave that excellent bow to Lord Rama and left after taking His permission.

63 After that, the King, who was extremely pleased, entered his city along with his sons; Thereafter, Lord Rama lived joyfully with Sita, who was Ramaa herself who had taken avatara as the daughter of the King.

64 Lord Rama, who is the Lord of Sri, just like how He lives joyfully in the middle of the milky ocean along with Mahalakshmi, lived joyfully along with Sita in the city of Ayodhya for a long time.

65 The activities of the best in the lineage of Raghu, Lord Rama, even though is very different, is not at all surprising given His unlimited capacity; We are describing His greatness here purely because it is a duty of ours.

|| End of chapter 4, known as the Bala Kanda Kathaa Nirupana, from the Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya, composed by Srimadanandatirtha Bhagavatpada ||

|| Sri Krishnaarpanamastu ||