ISSN 2583-9020



An Electronic Veda Journal

वेद् वाणी

(vEda vaaNee)

Volume 2, Issue 2, July 2024



Printed and Published by

Veda Samskruti Samiti

Malkajgiri Hyderabad TS

Kumbhakarna to Ravana on Raja Neethi with meaning in Telugu and English

(Based on Valmiki Srimad Ramayana)

Basetty Shankaraiah

Retired Professional, Editor, vEda vaaNee e-Journal <u>basetty53@gmail.com</u>

Abstract

Srimad Ramayana is one of the Ithihasas (History, as it happened) of the Sananta Dharma. It is written by Adi Kavi (first poet) Maharshi Valmiki. Srimad Ramayana narrates the story of Lord Rama (the walk of Rama), the great king with excellent personal qualities, great ruler, and good to everyone. In this epic, we find Ravana a powerful demon that Rama must confront and fight in a battle and ultimately conquer him. Ravana's brother Kumbhakarna is generally known for his huge size, relentless slumber, and sloth like nature. Poet Valmiki depicts the knowledge and wisdom of Kumbhakarna, through a set of sixteen verses found in the chapter Yuddha Kanda in Ramayana. Through these verses Kumbhakarna explains Raja Neethi or roles and responsibilities of a king prior to engaging in any battle. In short, it is a brilliant exposition of a short list of guidelines suitable for anyone in leadership, administration or seeking political power! The Sanskrit verses from Maharshi Valmiki Srimad Ramayana are presented together with translation Telugu in and English.

Introduction

To set the context for all readers, here's a brief recap of the story of Ramayana:

King Dasaratha had four sons, Rama being the eldest. When Dasaratha was about to coronate Rama as the next King, his second wife Kaikeyi wanted her son Bharatha to become the king and asked Rama to live in the forest for fourteen years. She demanded these two actions to fulfil two promises given to her earlier by King Dasaratha. Rama honoured his father's promise and travelled to the forest with his wife Sita and brother Laxmana. While living in the forest Rama supported many saints and protected them against the *rakshasas* (demons) who were disturbing their prayers and worship services (*Yaga*). At the end of his life in the forest, Rama is forced to

confront Ravana, a powerful demon, a *rakshasa* king. Though learned and mighty, this powerful king of Lanka, failing in his moral compass, had abducted Sita through devious means.

Ravana lost many of his warriors in the fierce battle with Rama. He was at the brink of defeat. At this moment of crisis, Ravana is compelled to seek help from his brother Kumbhakarna to go to war and win over Rama and Lakshmana. Kumbhakarna was a learned soul, though he is better known for his huge body, large appetite, and relentless slumber! He was blessed by Lord Brahma to sleep for six months and remain awake for the balance of six months in a year.

The details of the efforts by king Ravana to wake-up Kumbhakarna are explained in detail by Valmiki Maharshi in *Yuddakanda*, 60th Sarga. It was the 9th day of his sleep. The *rakshasas*, on the orders of Ravana went to Kumbhakarna to wake him up. The *rakshasas* kept piles of food and drinks in eyesight, so that Kumbhakarna can be enticed to come alive as he wakes up. Over thousand *rakshasas* tried in vain in different ways to wake him. At the end they guided one thousand elephants to parade on his body. Kumbhakarna felt that crawlers were moving on his body! With all other noises added, Kumbhakarna finally woke up!

Immediately upon waking up Kumbhakarna asked, "Is the King safe? Hope he is in no trouble?" On hearing the details that an army of *Vanaras* (forest dwellers) and two human beings Rama and Lakshmana have succeeded to bring Ravana to the brink of defeat, Kumbhakarna said, "I will go and kill all of them after seeking permission from the King".

Kumbhakarna meets with Ravana, and asks what the king wants him to do? Ravana explains that *Vanaras* with Sugriva as their leader along with Rama and Lakshmana have crossed the sea and have killed many *rakshasas*, and he sees a fear from *Vanaras* and Rama and Lakshmana. Ravana praised Kumbhakarna for his strengths and his affection for Lanka. Then Ravana asked him to go to the battle and kill all *Vanaras* and Rama and Lakshmana.

While he commits that he will do what Ravana wants him to do, in an ill-fated war in which he would eventually die, Kumbhakarna takes the time to explain that all this has happened due to wrong deeds and immoral acts of Ravana by stealing Sita without thinking ahead, on possible complications and impacts. He goes on to explain how a good king should behave.

यःपश्चातूर्वकार्याणिकुर्यादैश्वर्यमास्थितः । पूर्वचोत्तरकार्याणि न स वेदनयानया ।। 6.63.5 ।।

తా।। బలమున్నది కదా అని ముందు చేయవలసిన పనులు తరవాత, తరవాత చేయవలసిన పనులు ముందూ చేయువాడు పది నీతియో పది కాదో తెలుసుకొనజాలడు.

Those who are mighty prefer to engage in action at short notice, without reflection. They are likely to choose wrong or inappropriate actions.

देशकालविहीनानिकर्माणिविपरीतवत् । क्रियमाणानिदुष्यन्तिहवींष्यप्रयतेष्विव ।। 6.63.6 ।।

తా। దేశకాలములు అనుకూలముగా వున్నవా లేదా అని చూచుకొనకుండా, విపరీతముగా చేయు పనులు అపవిత్రుల

చేతిలోని హవిస్సుల వలె చెడిపోవును.

Actions performed without regard for time and place will be disastrous, just as the oblations offered into fire without consecration, gets wasted.

त्रयाणांपञ्चधायोगंकर्मणांयःप्रपश्यति । सिचवैरसमयंकृत्वा स सभ्येवर्ततेपथि ।। 6.63.7।। తా।। ఎవడు మంత్రులతో బాగా ఆలోచించి, మూడు విధములైన కర్తలను ఐదువిధాలైన సాధనాలతో సాధించుకొనునో అతనే మంచి నీతిమార్గమునందున్నవాడు.

శత్రువునకు క్షయము కలగు సమయమునందు చేయబడు దందోపయుక్రమైన యానము శత్రుబలము సమానముగా పున్నప్పుడు చేయబడు సంధి మధ్యమకర్త. పరునకు అభివృద్ధి క్షయము కలుగునప్పుడు ದಾನపూರ್ಯಕಮುಗಾ సామమును నాశ్రయించుట అధమకర్ప కర్తలను ఆరంభించు ఉపాయము, పురుషద్రవ్వసంపద, దేశకాలములను సలిగా గులించుట, ఆపదలకు ప్రతిక్రియ చేసికొనుట, కార్యసిద్ధి මතාත්බ මගාරා.

One who seeks counsel with ministers and considers the five aspects and threefold duties move in the right path of action.

Five aspects of action are: the method of initiating action, material to be worked upon, time and place of action, provision against failure or exit strategy and the chances of success.

Threefold duty with reference to enemies are: *Sama* (Persuasion), *Dhaana* (Incentive), and *Bedha* (Discrimination).

यथागमं च योराजासमयंविचिकीर्षति । बुध्यतेसचिवान्बध्यासुहृदश्चानुपश्यति ॥ 6.63.8 ॥

తాగు మంచి నితిమార్గమునం దున్మ రాజు శాస్త్రానుసారము నిర్ణయము చేయును. తన బుద్ధితో ఆలోచించి, మంత్రులతోను, మిత్రులతోను కూడా ఆలోచన చేయును. The king who performs his duty in time, in accordance with scriptures and the justice and thinking intelligently with his ministers in advance, understands the situation rightly.

धर्ममर्थं च कामं च सर्वान्वारक्षसांपते । भजतेपुरुषःकालेत्रीणिद्धन्द्वानिवापुनः ॥ 6.63.9

తా।। రాక్షసరాజా! బుద్ధిమంతుడైన పురుషుడు ధర్కార్ధకామములను వేరువేరుగా గానీ, అన్మింటినీ గానీ, ధర్కార్ధములు, ధర్షకామములు, అర్ధకామములు అను మూడు ద్వంద్వములను గానీ కాలానుసారముగా సేవించవలెను.

O Rakshasa king! A man should pursue his *Dharma* (duty), *Artha* (worldly gain), *Kama* (sensual pleasures) all the three combined, or at least any two in the proper time (as laid down in the scriptures).

त्रिषुचैतेषुयच्छ्रेष्ठंश्रुत्वातन्नावबुध्यते । राजावाराजमात्रोवाव्यर्थंतस्यबहुश्रुतम् ।। 6.63.10 ।।

తా।। ధర్మార్ధకామములలో పెబి పె సమయమునందు శ్రెష్ఠమైనదో తెలిసికొనని రాజు గాని, రాజసదృఘడు గానీ చేసిన శాస్త్రాభ్యాసము వ్యర్ధము.

A king should know which time is important for emphasis on *Dharma*, *Artha* and *Kama*. If he does not realise the importance of time for each of these, his learning is a waste.

उपप्रदानंसान्त्वं च भेदंकाले च विक्रमम् । योगं च रक्षसांश्रेष्ठतावुभौ च नयानयौ ।। 6.63.11 कालेधर्मार्थकामान्यस्सम्मन्त्यसचिवैःसह । निषेवेतात्मवान्लोके न स व्यसनमाप्नुयात् ॥ 6.63.12 ॥

ಆಲ್ಹಿಂವಿ ख्या। మంత్రులతో ದಾನಮುನು, సామమును. బేదమును. తగు సమయమునందు కర్తారంభోపాయము పరాక్షమమును, మొదలైన ಯೌಗಮುನು. పంచవిదసాదనముల కాలానుగుణముగా ధర్మార్ధకామములను సేవించి బుద్ధిమంతుడు లోకములో ఆపదలు పాందడు.

You are the foremost of the Rakshasas! After discussing with ministers and their counsel, a king either by *Dhana* (enticement) or *Sama* (persuasion) or *Bedha* (discrimination) or resorting to all of them at the appropriate time and then takes resort to pursue virtue, wealth, or sensual pleasures at the right time, never meets with sorrow.

हितानुबन्धमालोच्यकार्यात्कार्यमिहात्मनः । राजासहार्थतत्त्वज्ञैस्सचिवैर्बुस्सहिजीवति ।। 6.63.13 ।।

తా।। రాజు కార్యముల యధార్థస్వరూపము తెలిసిన బుద్ధిజీవులైన మంత్రులతో కలిసి ఎట్లు చేసిన తనకు హితము కలుగునో ఆలోచించుకొని కార్యములు చేయవలెను.

That king who knows the reality of things and makes decisions in consultation with his ministers, who earn their living for their intelligence, will live happily.

The following verses describe the qualities required of ministers, who provide counsel:

अनभिज्ञायशास्त्रार्थान् पुरुषाःपशुबुद्धयः । प्रागल्भ्याद्धक्तुमिच्छन्तिमन्त्रेष्वभ्यन्तरीकृताः ।। 6.63.14 ।।

తాగు పశువులవంటి బుద్ధి గల వాలికి ఆలోచలను చేయునప్పుడు అవకాశమిచ్చినచో వాక్కు శాస్త్రవిషయములు తెలిసికొనకుండగా ప్రాగల్ట్యమువలన ఏమేమో చెప్పుచుందురు.

People whose intelligence is no better than that of animals, who have been included to express their views, who do not know the meaning of *shastras* (Scriptures) express their views only out of their vanity.

अशास्त्रविदुषांतेषां न कार्यमभिहितंवचः । अर्थशास्त्रानभिज्ञानांविपुलांश्रियमिच्छताम् ।। 6.63.15 ।।

తాగు శాస్త్రజ్ఞానము లేక, అర్థశాస్త్రము ఎరుగక అభికమైన ఐశ్వర్యమును మాత్రము కోరుచుండు అట్టివాళ్లు చెప్పిన విధముగా చేయకూడదు.

Those who have no knowledge of *shastras* (Scriptures and their rules), and are ignorant of the science of wealth and are themselves desirous of huge wealth - their advice ought not to be followed.

अहितं च हिताकारंधार्ष्ट्याञ्चल्पन्तियेनराः । अवेक्ष्यमन्त्रबाह्यास्तेकर्तव्याःकृत्यदूषणाः ।। 6.63.16।।

తాగి ప్ర మానవులు హితమువలె కనబదు అహితమును ధార్మ్హ్మమువలన ఉపదేశించుచుందురో వాలిని కార్యాలోచనలనుండి దూరముగా పుంచవలెను. అట్టివాళ్లు కార్యములను పాడుచేయుదురు.

Those who render advice, which is unwholesome but in attractive framework out of their presumptions, should be kept away from discussion by examining them early on, as they mar the purpose.

विनाशयन्तोभर्तारंसहिताश्शत्रुभिर्बुधैः । विपरीतानिकृत्यानिकारयन्तीहमन्त्रिणः ।। 6.63.17 ।।

తా।। కొందరు మంత్రులు పండితులైన శత్రువులతో కలిసి తమ ప్రభువునకు అపకారము చేయుచు అతనిచేత చెడ్డపనులు చేయించుచుందురు.

Some ministers in order to ruin the king, collude with enemies and force the king into wrong actions.

तान्भर्तामित्रसङ्काशानमित्रान्मन्त्रनिर्णये । व्यवहारेणजानीयात्सचिवानुपसम्हितान् ।। 6.63.18 ।।

తాగి శత్రువులనుండి లంచము మొదలైనవి తీసుకొని మాలిపోయిన, పైకి మిత్రులవలె కనబడు అమిత్రులైన మంత్రులను రాజు మంత్రమును నిర్ణయించు సమయమునందు, వాలి వ్యవహారమును బట్టి గుల్తించవలెను.

A ruler should know those ministers who are bribed by the enemy, who have become close to the enemy and appear as friends. Those ministers must be known through their behaviour in the deliberations.

The following are concluding verses from Kumbhakarna to Ravana:

चपलस्येहकृत्यानिसहसानुप्रधावतः । छिद्रमन्येप्रपद्यन्तेक्रौञ्चस्य ख मिवद्धिजाः ।। 6.63.19 ।।

తాగి చపలచిత్తుడై తొందరపడి పనులు చేయువానిలో ఉండు లోపాలను, (కుమారస్వామి బాణాము ప్రయోగించి చేసిన) క్రౌంచపర్వతరంధ్రములో పక్షులు ప్రవేశించినట్లు, శత్రువులు తమకు అనుకూలముగా ఉండునట్లు, చేసికొనుచుందురు.

Enemies find out the weakness of the king who is unsteady and in rush for their actions without contemplation.

योहिशत्रुमवज्ञायनात्मानमभिरक्षति । अवाप्नोतिहिसोऽनर्थान् स्थानाच्चव्यवरोप्यते ।। 6.63.20 ।।

తాగి శత్రువు విషయమున అనాదరము చుపుచు తనను రక్షించుకొననివాడు అనర్ధములను పాందును. తన స్థానమునుండి బంపివేయబడును.

Knowing fully the actions of the enemy, one who does not protect himself, suffers failure and reversals and is also dragged down from his position of power and strength.

References

- Valmiki Ramayanam, Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Kanpur, (https://valmiki.iitk.ac.in)
- 2. SriRamachandrudu, P. (2017). *Srimad Ramayanamu*. Vols. 1-6. In Telugu language https://archive.org/details/VRPullela12356/VR-Pullela-Ram-6-Yud/page/n781/mode/2up

About the Author



Sri Basetty Shankaraiah worked for 42 years in a multinational corporation after obtaining his M Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai. After retirement he studied Sanskrit language, through 'Samskrita Bharathi' under Sri Akella H. Prabhakara Rao garu.



Veda Samskruti Samiti

13-1-62 & 13-1-47/1 Veenapani Nagar, Malkajgiri HYDERABAD Telangana



Veda Samskruti is an inherent intellectual property of Bhaarata dEsham. It is the basic duty and right of every citizen in Bhaarata dEsham to protect this Intellectual property. Indian Constitution and Law provides provision for protection and preservation of its culture, its monuments, architecture etc.

The Chaturvedas said to have 1131 shaakhaas right up to the time of Aadi Shankaraachaarya and thereafter during last more than ten centuries, many shaakhaas are out of practice due to various reasons and presently only seven shaakaas are in the practice of Guru shiShya parampara.

There is a need to continuously preserve these available shaakhaas which may likely to disappear in future due to various external forces acting in the country vigorously with the power of money and global politics. It is time for the intellectuals of Bharata dEsham to wake-up and work collectively to protect and preserve Veda Samskruti of Bharata dEsham, by empowering the Youth of Bharat dEsham, the future care takers of this great Indian Heritage, with suitable education of our correct history and culture.

The above background lead to formation of this Veda Samskruti Samiti which is registered under Societies acts of Government of Telangana, with Regd. No. 961/2016 by Sri A.H. Prabhakara Rao, who is the Founder and President of the Samiti.

The vEda vaaNee e-journal, ISSN 2583-9020, is now publishing its Volume 2, Issue 2, July 2024.