

# RAMAYANA

## PART 9



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# RAMAYANA

## PART 9 BATTLE EPISODE-II

Retold & Edited By:  
T.R. Bhanot



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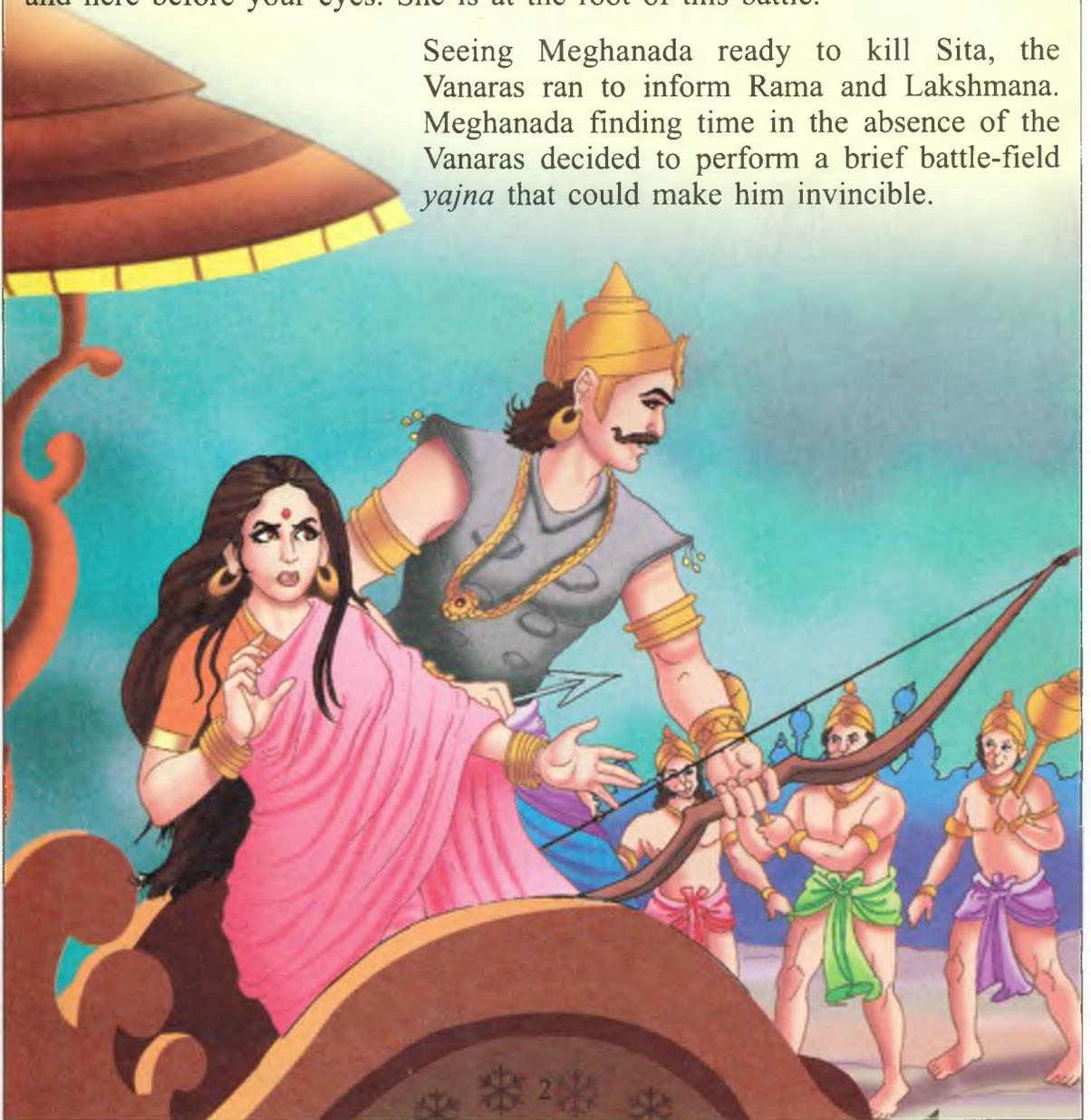
J-128, KIRTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110 015 (INDIA)  
Phone : 011-2545 5657, 2510 6050 Fax. : 011-2543 8283

e-mail : [dreamland@vsnl.com](mailto:dreamland@vsnl.com)  
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Kumbhakarana's death doubled the spirits of the Vanara soldiers and they fell upon the demons with a renewed vigour. Seeing the demons in dampened spirits, Meghanada came to the battle-field in a chariot with Sita sitting in it. It startled the entire Vanara army and they shouted, "Look there. Is she Sita ?"

Shouting like that, the Vanaras fell upon Meghanada. Seeing the Vanaras advancing towards his chariot, Meghanada drew out his sword and said, "Stop short ! If anyone takes even one step further, I shall behead Sita now and here before your eyes. She is at the root of this battle."

Seeing Meghanada ready to kill Sita, the Vanaras ran to inform Rama and Lakshmana. Meghanada finding time in the absence of the Vanaras decided to perform a brief battle-field *yajna* that could make him invincible.



Hearing the news about Sita from the Vanara soldiers, Rama became unconscious. Anyhow, when he came to his senses, Vibhishana consoled him, saying, "My Lord ! she was not real Sita. She was a magic-created Sita. Meghanada played this trick to find time to perform a battle-field 'yajna' that is sure to make him invincible. So, get up and kill him before he is able to complete the sacred 'yajna'."

Seeking Rama's permission and accompanied by Angad, Hanuman and Vibhishana, Lakshmana marched forth in great fury with bow and arrows in hands.



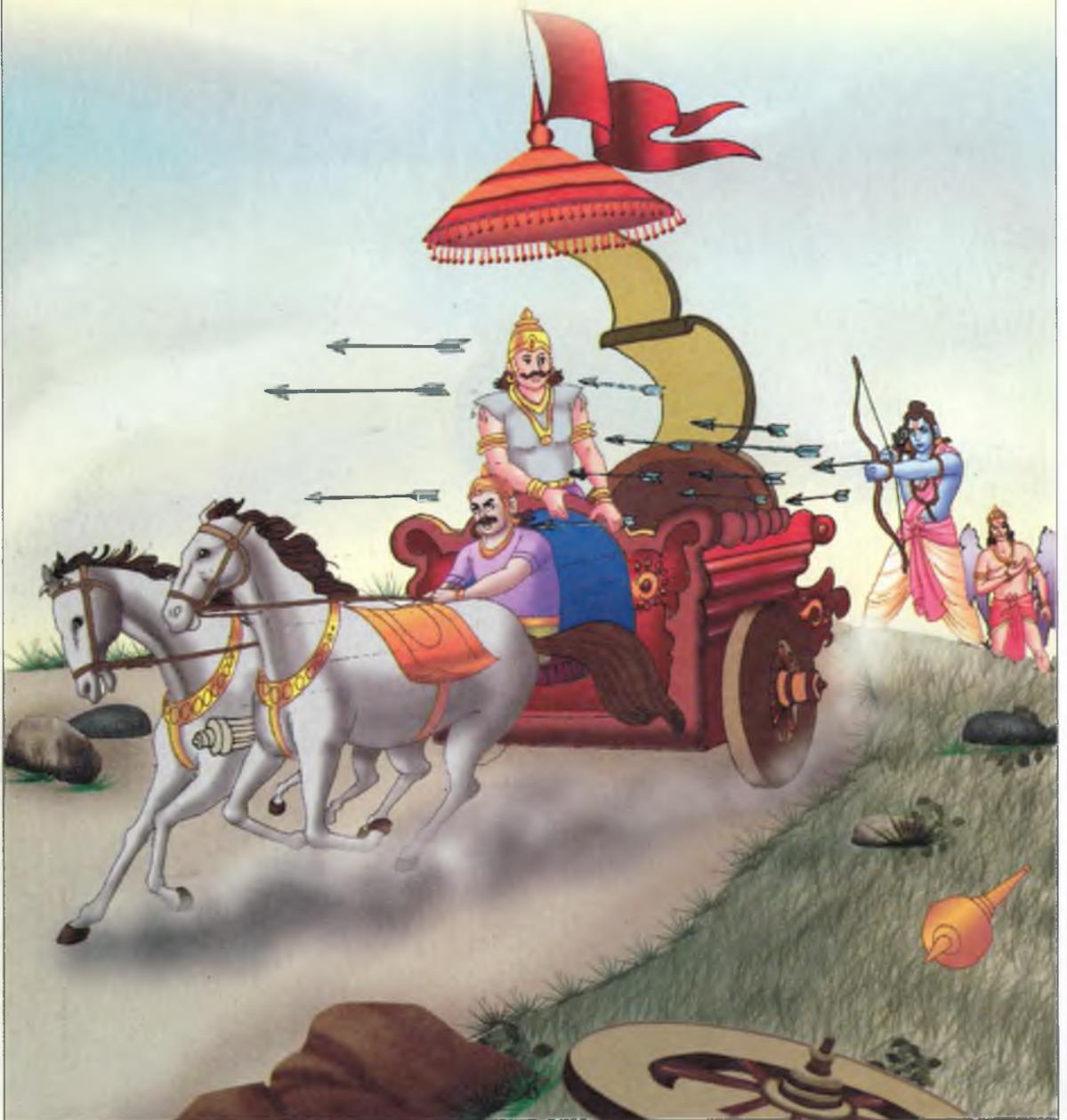
Consequently, a fierce fighting took place and many Vanaras as well as many more demons were killed. Being enraged by his brave uncle Kumbhakarana's death, Meghanada began to shower his lethal arrows on the Vanaras. Many Vanaras fell in action. Seeing this, Hanuman flew into rage and rushed to kill the demons with his mace. In the meantime, the great demon warriors like Virupaksh, Mahodar and Mahaparshva were killed in the battle. When Meghanada saw many demon soldiers fleeing, he roared and challenged Lakshmana to get ready to die before long.



Lakshmana accepted Meghanada's gauntlet and fought a very dreadful battle. Lakshmana and Meghanada grappled with each other in mounting fury. Neither could get the better of the other.



Lakshmana growing furious smashed Meghanada's chariot to pieces and killed the charioteer. Meghanada was all but dead. Meghanada thought that Lakshmana would not spare him that day. Meghanada badly perspired. He was at a loss what to do or what not to do.



Then, Meghanada resorted to unfair means. Ultimately, he made up his mind to strike Lakshmana with his divine weapon 'Shakti Arrow'.

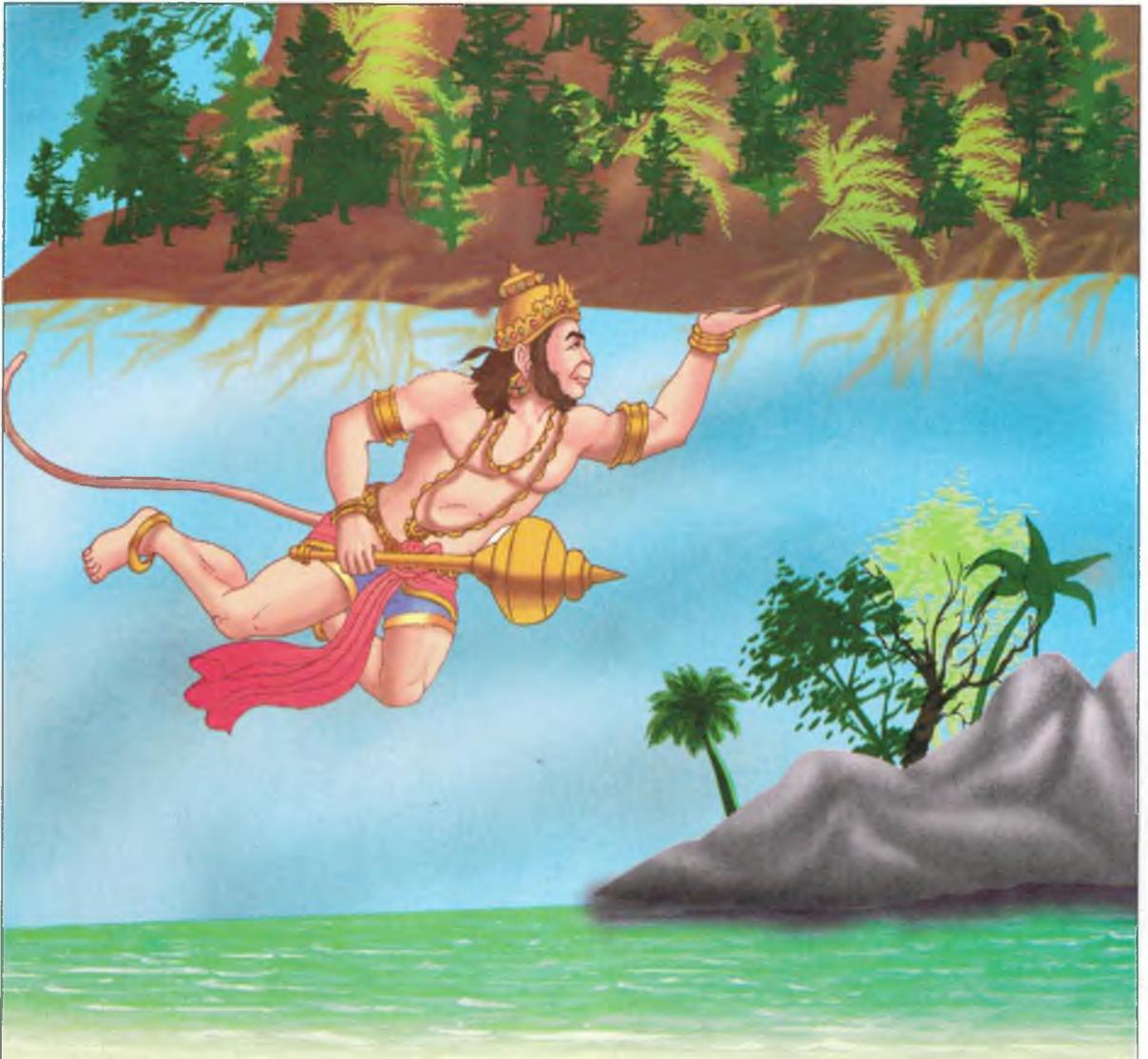
As soon as the arrow struck Lakshmana, he was critically wounded. Thus, Lakshmana fell down unconscious on the ground. Seeing his brother senseless, Rama was plunged into the ocean of grief. Lakshmana was lying in a pool of blood. He was smarting under acute pain.



Rama placed his brother's head in his lap. He burst into tears and asked Hanumana to bring great physician Sushen. Hanumana had already brought Sushen, the physician, along with his cot on which he was sleeping.

The physician consoled Rama and said, "There is nothing to fear. Send Hanumana to Mount Mahoday so that he may bring a *life-giving* herb (sanjivani) that grows on its southern peak. That herb will infuse a new life in your brother's body. But it should essentially be brought here before the sunrise." So, Rama persuaded Hanumana to go and bring the life-saving herb as early as possible. Hanumana, at once, proceeded on this mission.





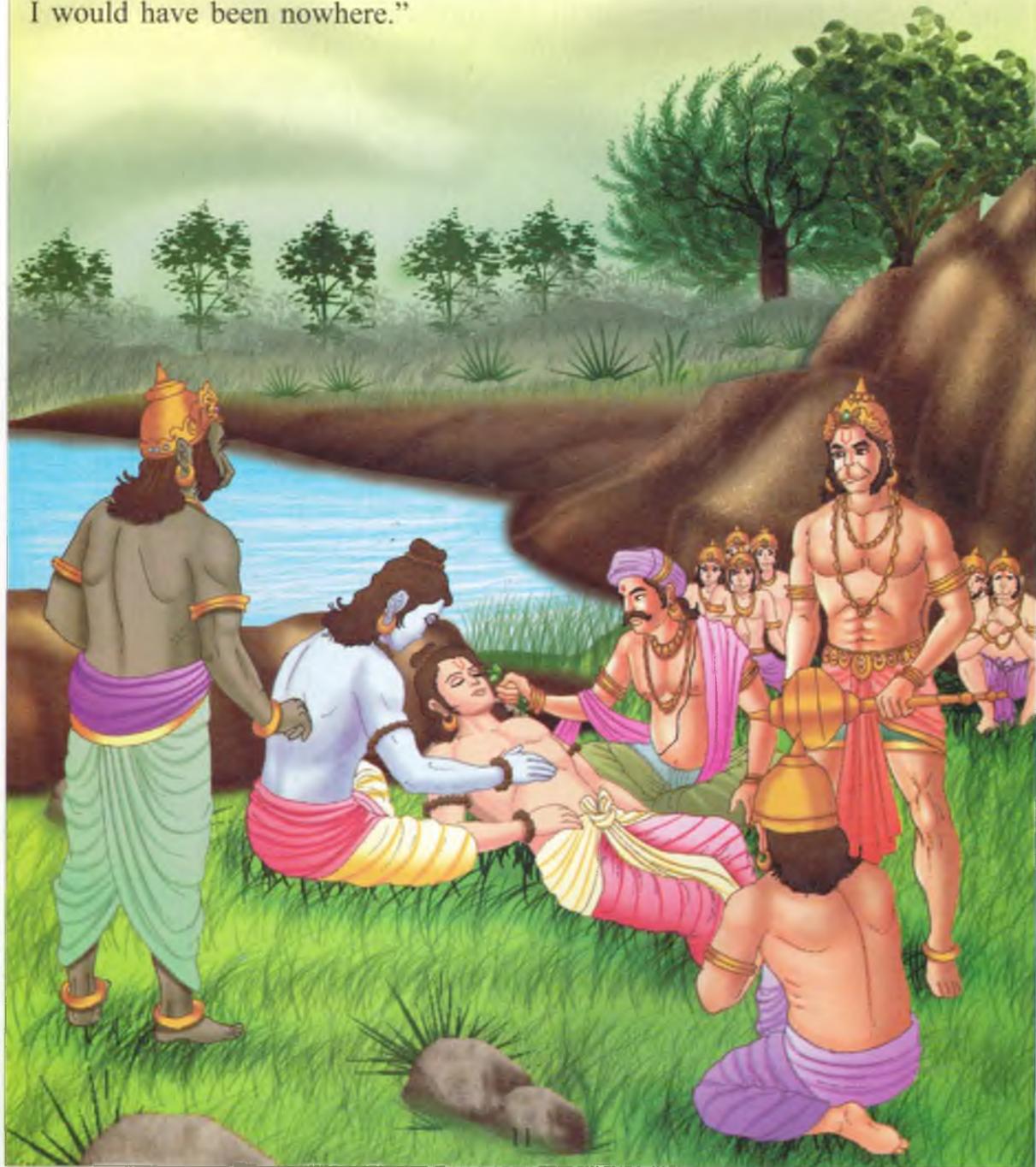
On his way, Hanumana met a saint who was actually Kalneni, a demon sent by Ravana to kill Hanumana. Kalnemi directed Hanumana to a nearby lake so that Hanumana might get killed.

When Hanumana was drinking water at the lake, a giant spider caught his neck. He killed the spider with a blow. The spider became free from a saint's curse and came to its real form. It said, "You have freed me from the curse. So, I let you know a secret. The saint you met on the way is not a saint indeed. He is a demon sent by Ravana to mislead you." So, Hanumana came back to Kalnemi and killed him, then and there. Then, he reached Mount Mahodaya but he failed to recognise the herb. So, he carried a part of the mountain along with all the herbs growing on it.



It was night and Hanumana was flying over Ayodhya along with the mountain on his hand. Bharata, the king of Ayodhya, took him for a demon and shot an arrow at him. It struck Hanumana who fell down on the ground calling out the name 'Rama'. Hearing Rama's name, Bharata ran to Hanumana and asked him, "Who are you, brother?" "I am a humble servant of Rama." Saying so, Hanumana narrated the entire incident. Bharata said to Hanumana, "Day-break is not very far-off. Sit on this arrow along with your mountain. I shall make you reach Rama in an instant." Hanumana agreed and Bharata did what he had said.

Seeing Hanumana back in time, Rama was very pleased. The physician administered the required herb to Lakshmana and he got recovered in no time. Lakshmana shouted and challenged Meghanada to face his assault. All the Vanaras rejoiced at the event in merriment. As for Rama, his joy knew no bounds and embracing his brother, he said, "Lakshmana ! Hanumana has given you a new life. If something unpleasant had happened, I would have been nowhere."



The moment Lakshmana got up from his swoon, he said, "Where is Indrajit?" Lakshmana rushed to the battle-field and challenged Meghanada for a battle. Thus the *yajna* remained incomplete and Meghanada got up to face Lakshmana. But he could not bear the brunt of Lakshmana's onslaught and fell down dead on the ground. Ravana was so much dejected by his valiant son's death that he thought of killing Sita who was the root cause of all his misfortunes. Ravana cried in rage, "It is best to kill Sita who is the root cause of all this tragedy. My son Indrajit killed the illusory Sita. Let me kill real Sita who has wrought the destruction of my entire family." Saying so, he rushed out with a sword to kill Sita. But his wise Minister persuaded him not to do so.



Ravana sent for his warriors and said, "I myself will rout my enemies now. Get ready my chariot that moves with the speed of wind." In a short time, Ravana moved to the battle-field on his chariot followed by all the four-wings of his army. Several other warriors too led their chariots to the field of battle. The march of the demon soldiers raised clouds of dust and it made the sun invisible. It caused the sea to be turbulent and the hills to lose their equilibrium. The sound of the war-trumpets seemed as if the clouds of the Doom's Day were thundering.

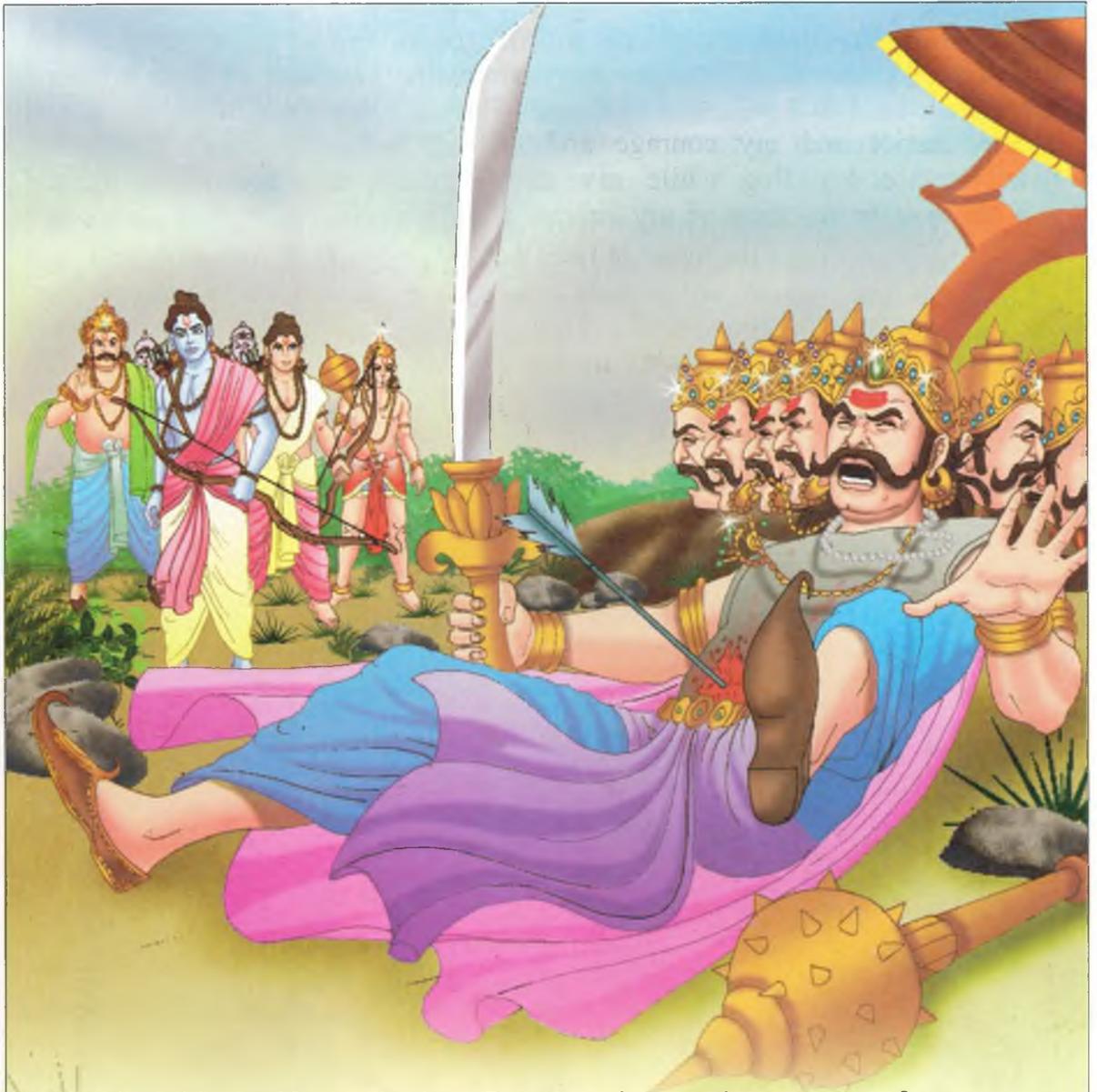
Soon both the armies stood face to face and in the twinkling of an eye, arrows began to be rained from both sides. Seeing Ravana on his chariot, Vibhishana got frightened. He went to Rama who was on the ground.



Vibhishana said to Rama, “My Lord, you have neither a chariot nor any armour. How will you win Ravana, the powerful ?”

Hearing these words, Rama smiled and said, “Vibhishana ! self-eonfidence is my chariot and my courage and patience are its wheels. Truth and character are my flag while my strength, knowledge, self-control and goodwill are four horses of my chariot. Forgiveness and uniform behaviour are the ropes used to tie these horses. Faith in God is my charioteer while contentment and charity are my sword and axe respectively. My principles are my arrows. Devotion to the Brahmanas and to my preceptor is my impenetrable armour. What other means of victory can one crave for ?”

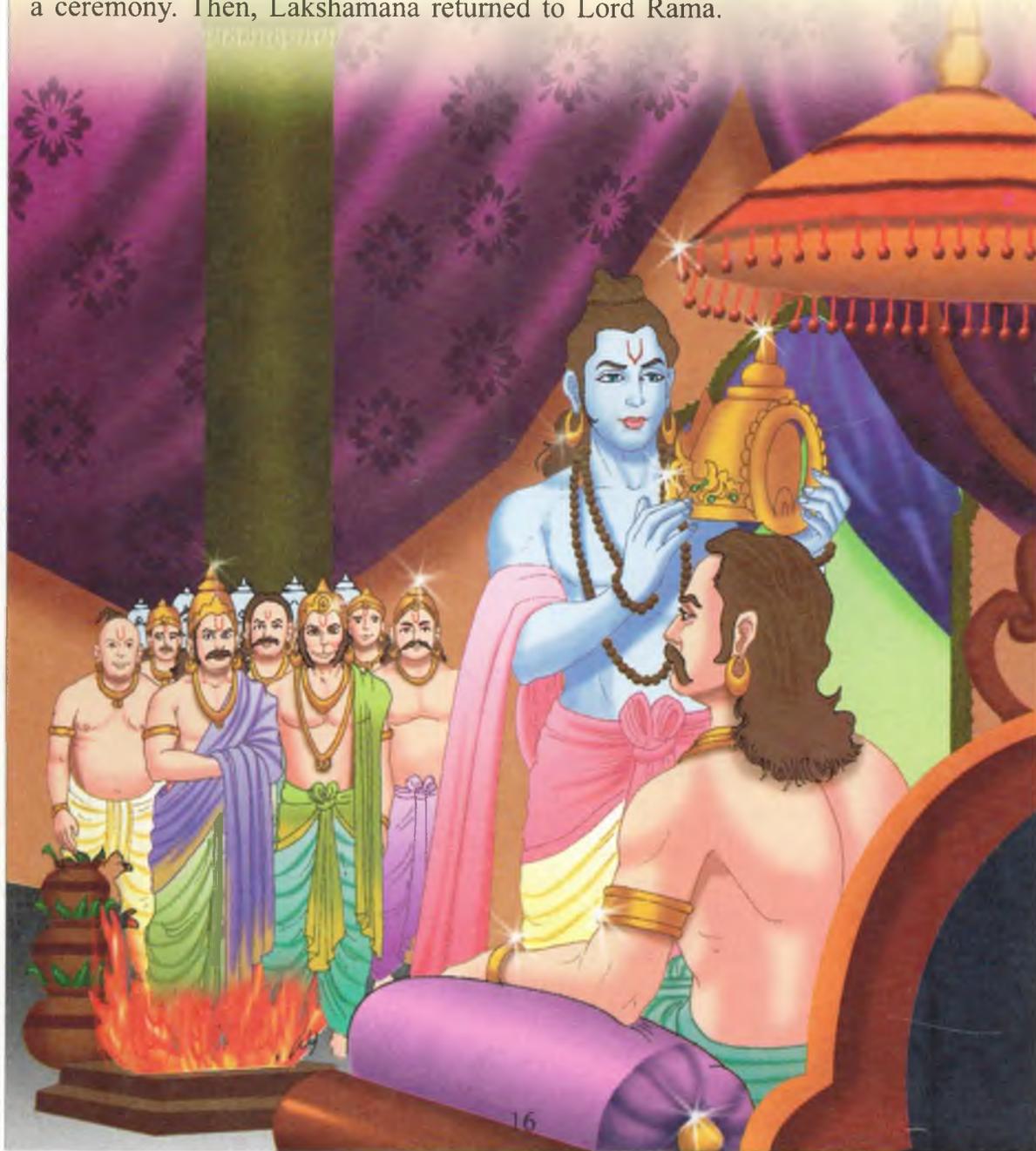




Mounting his swiftest chariot, Ravana showered a spate of arrows on Rama's army. He roared and challenged Rama. As all the gods wanted to see Rama victorious, Indra, the lord of Heaven, sent his 'divine' chariot with charioteer Matali for Lord Rama's use. Mounting the chariot, Rama cut off Ravana's heads many a time. But instantly, they became alive. Rama was non-plussed. Then, Vibhishana whispered into Rama's ears to use the divine 'Brahmastra'. Having uttered the spell Lord Rama shot the 'Brahmastra' which pierced Ravana's chest. The nectar in his navel got dried up. The great monster fell down dead uttering for the first time "Hey Rama". Lord Rama sent him to his heavenly abode.

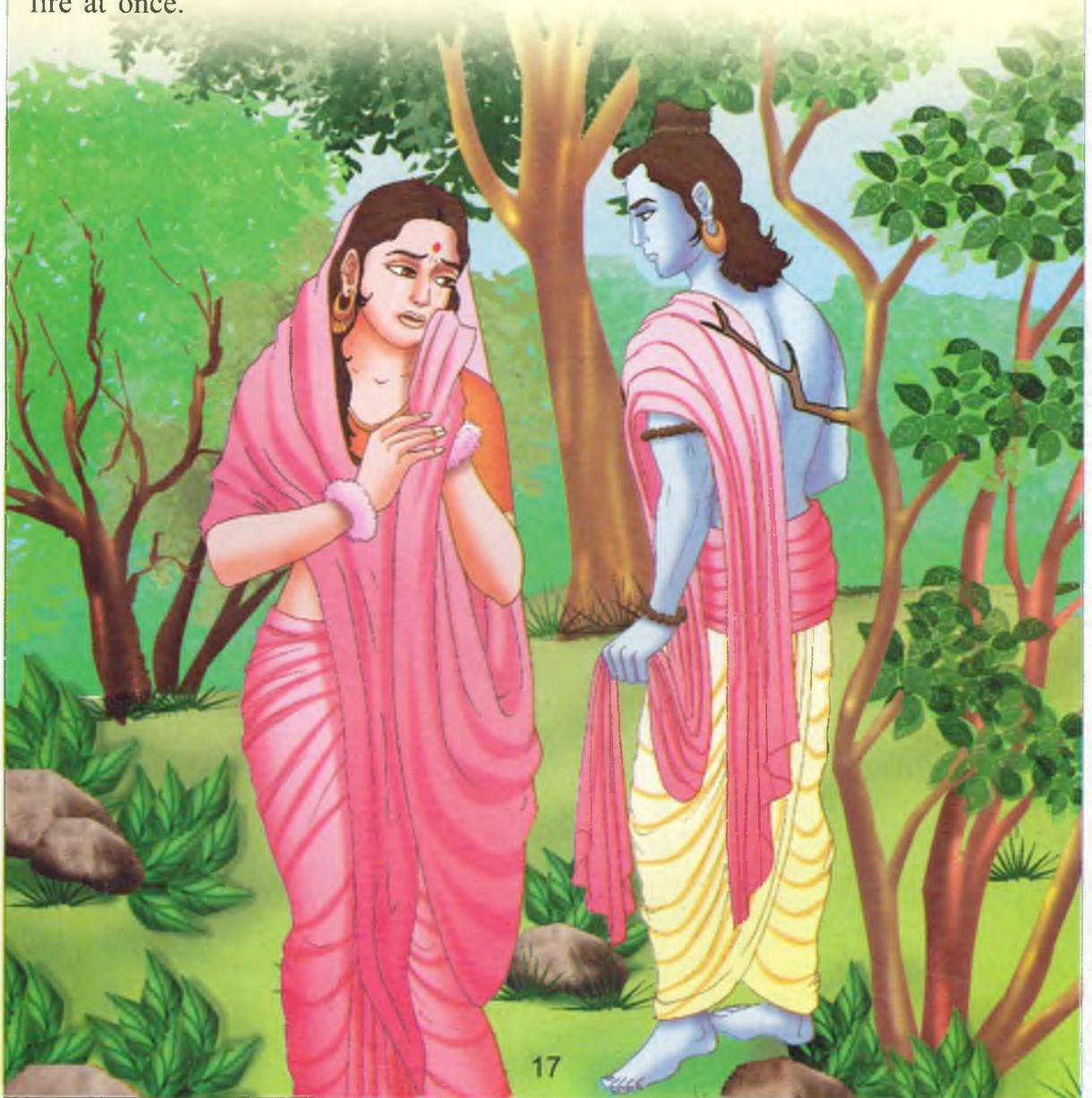
Seeing his brother dead, Vibhishana got plunged in sorrow. Rama consoled him and said, "Vibhishana ! be calm and perform the last rites of your brother." Vibhishana went to Lanka and performed Ravana's last rites. Next day, Rama directed Lakshmana to go to Lanka along with Sugreeva, Angad, Hanumana, Nala, Neela and Jambvant and coronate Vibhishana duly because he himself was not to enter any town or village.

Lakshmana escorted by others went to Lanka and enthroned Vibhishana after a ceremony. Then, Lakshmana returned to Lord Rama.



Rama then asked Vibhishana to bring Sita. The Vanaras were all eager to see mother Sita. Rama felt highly pleased to see Sita. He said to her in a gentle voice, "No honourable person will accept his wife back -after she had passed some time in another person's house. So, we will have to be separate again now."

Rama's words fell like a bolt from the blue on Sita. Weeping bitterly, she said in a heavy voice, "It is right that I was in Ravana's prison. But I have never even thought of anybody else but you." Then Sita, who was pure in thought, word and deed, said to Lakshmana, "Observing the tenets of religion, make a fire at once."



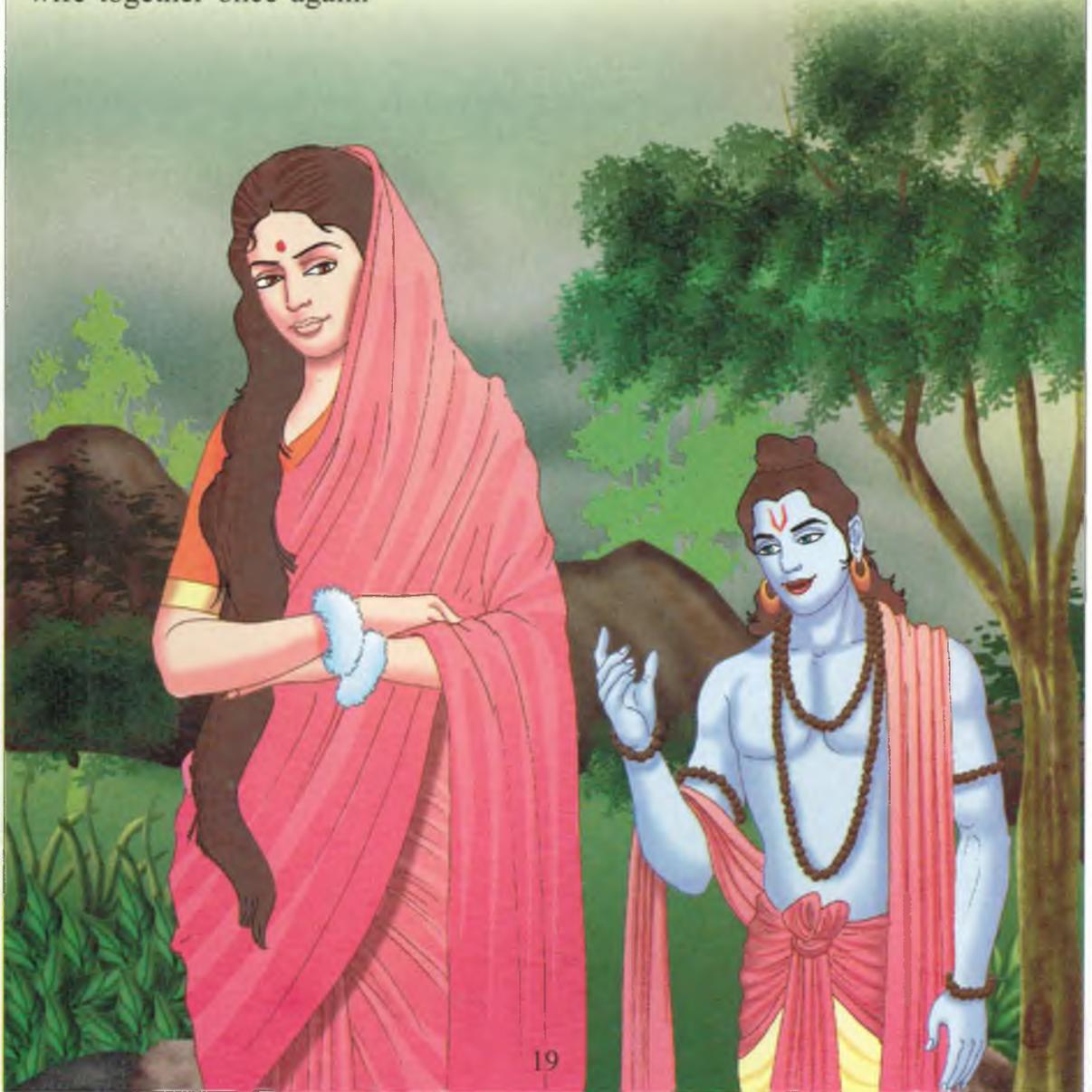
The Fire-god appeared out of the fire and said to Rama, "Sita is a lady of high chastity. She is pious in thought, deed and sight even. She has not been even touched by sin or evil. She has never thought of any person other than you for a moment even. So, accept her." Saying so, the Fire-god handed over Sita to her husband Rama.



Sita was looking so charming at that time. Her complexion resembled that of the rising sun and her golden ornaments increased her charm a lot. Seeing her beauty, everyone present felt happy. They all began to praise her.

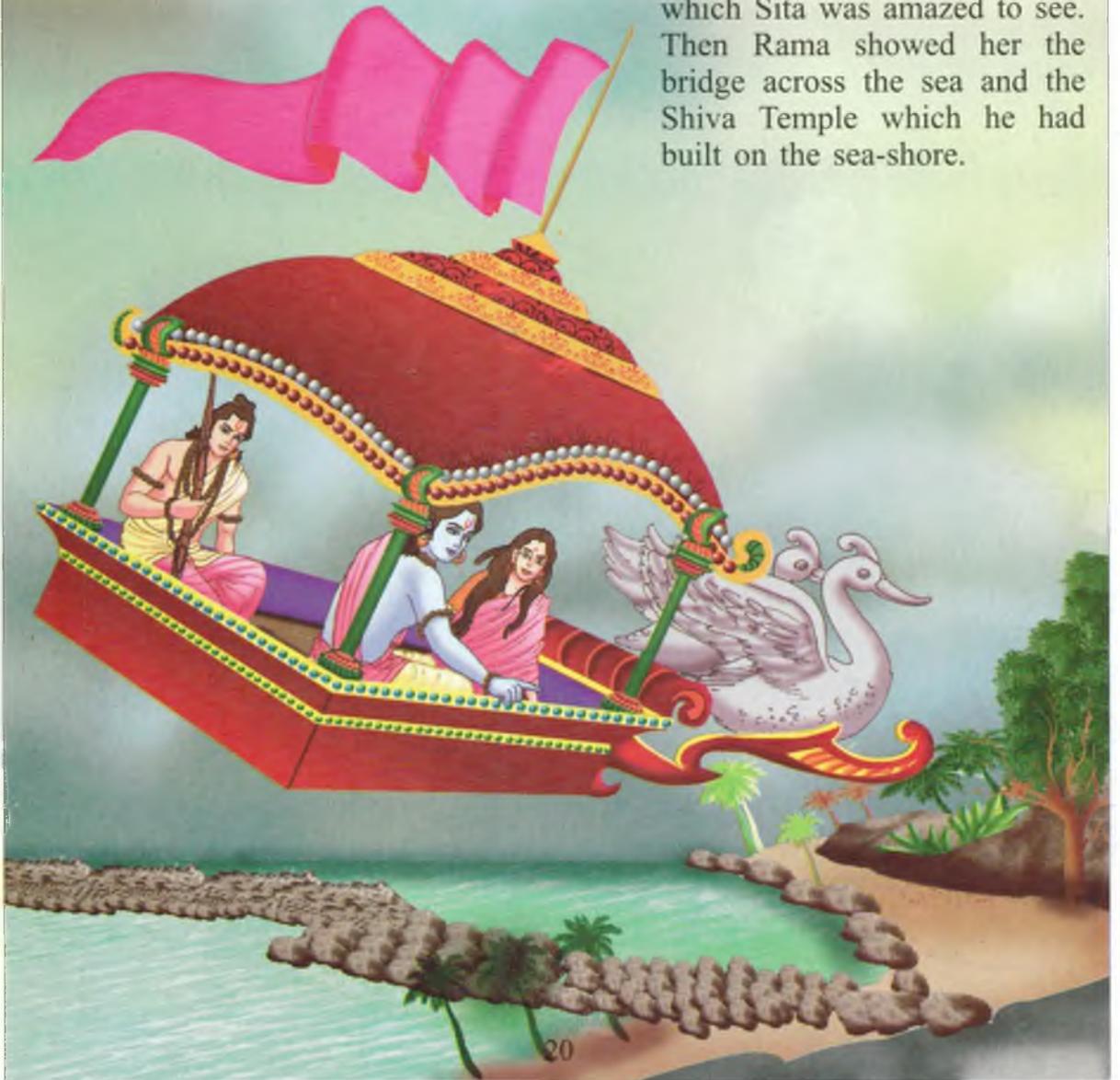
After the ordeal, Rama advanced towards Sita and said in a repentant voice, “Darling, never take to heart anything. I never doubted your chastity. But if anybody else had raised such a doubt, it would have been intolerable for me as well as for you. So, this ordeal was essential, though I knew that your fidelity was strong enough to protect you from any evil eye—be it Ravana’s or of anybody else.”

Then, Rama took Sita’s hand in his own and went away. She too shed sorrow and became as happy as ever in the company of her dear husband. Everybody who was present there, felt overjoyed to see the husband and wife together once again.



Now Vibhishana said to Rama with folded hands, "My lord ! the period of your exile is over. So, be kind enough to grace my cottage along with your spouse." Hearing this Rama said, "It is so nice of you to invite us-like that. But you know I have always been thinking of Bharata who will be eagerly looking forward to my return. A moment's delay will be intolerable for him. He is performing the duties of a king but living as a hermit. Any tardiness on my part to reach Ayodhya may push him in the jaws of death. So, I would take leave of you."

So, Vibhishana sent for an air-vehicle. Seating Rama, Lakshmana and Sita in it, he proceeded to Ayodhya. The air-vehicle flew over the battle-field which Sita was amazed to see. Then Rama showed her the bridge across the sea and the Shiva Temple which he had built on the sea-shore.



Bharata was counting the days of Rama's exile on fingers. Only one day was left out of the exile-period. He was lost in thoughts. He said to himself, "Only one day is left ; no news from my brother Rama has reached me so far." Just then Hanumana appeared before him in the guise of a Brahmana. Seeing Bharata's condition, he was moved to pity. He bowed low before Bharata and informed him of Rama's imminent arrival. "Please let everybody in the palace and also Saint Vasishtha know it," said Hanumana.

Bharata was overjoyed to know of Rama's arrival. He sent word to all in the palace about it. The people of Ayodhya were also informed of it. The town of Ayodhya was decorated like a bride and people stood agape gazing at the path along which Rama was to come.

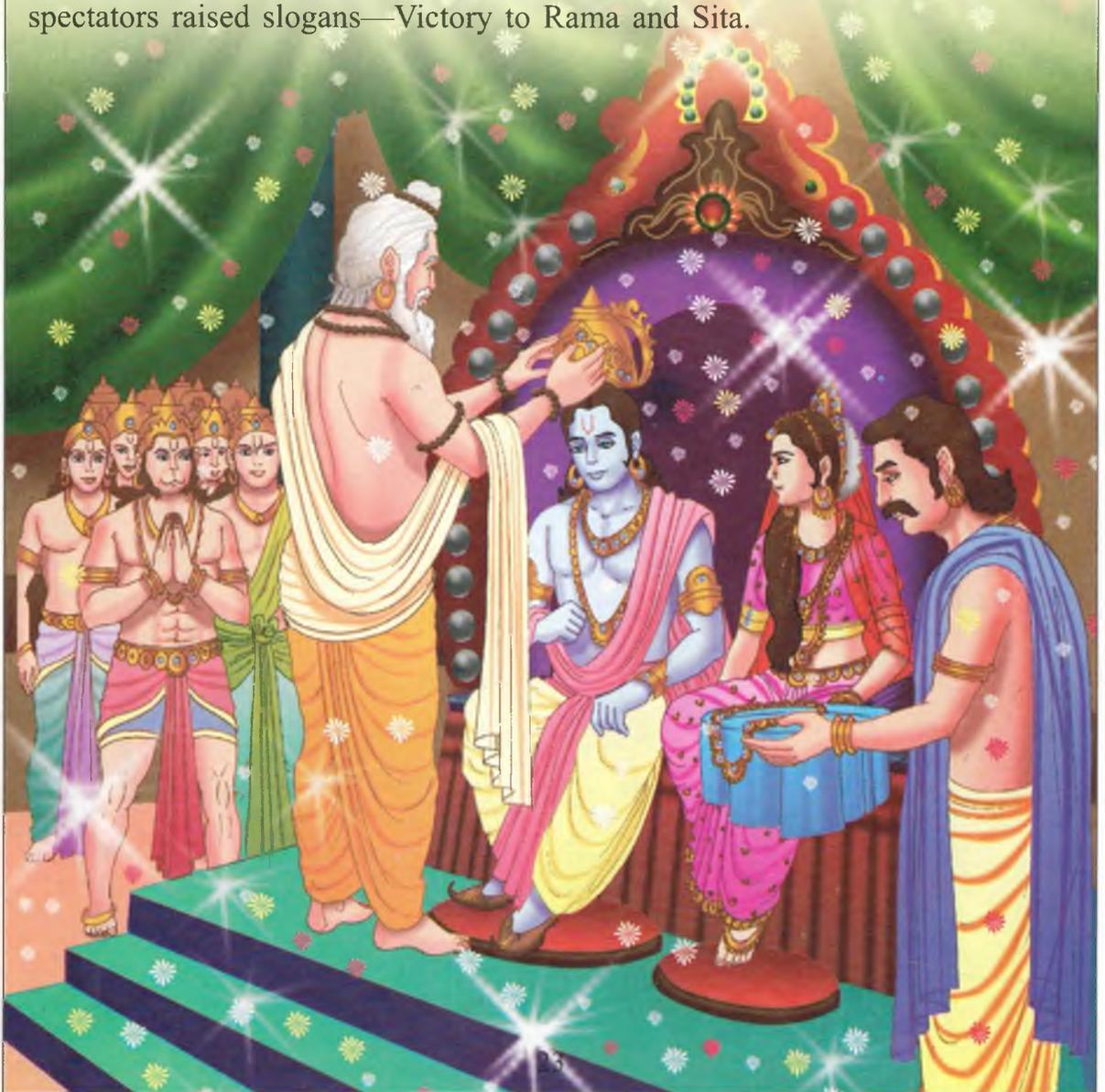


As soon as Rama set foot on the land of Ayodhya, he addressed Angad and Vibhishana and said, "Look ! this land is my motherland. The water of the Saryu is so pious to me. It gives me perfect peace of mind. The people of Ayodhya are dearer to me than my life even." Taking a pinch of the soil to his fore-head, Vibhishana said, "We are fortunate to be on this pious soil." Looking at Bharata along with other people ready to welcome, tears welled up in Rama's eyes. Bharata lay prostrate at his brother's feet and Rama embraced him most affectionately. Both the brothers were shedding tears out of joy. Shatrughna and Lakshmana hugged each other too. Then Bharata and Shatrughna bowed low before Sita. Lakshmana also touched Bharata's feet out of profound love and respect.

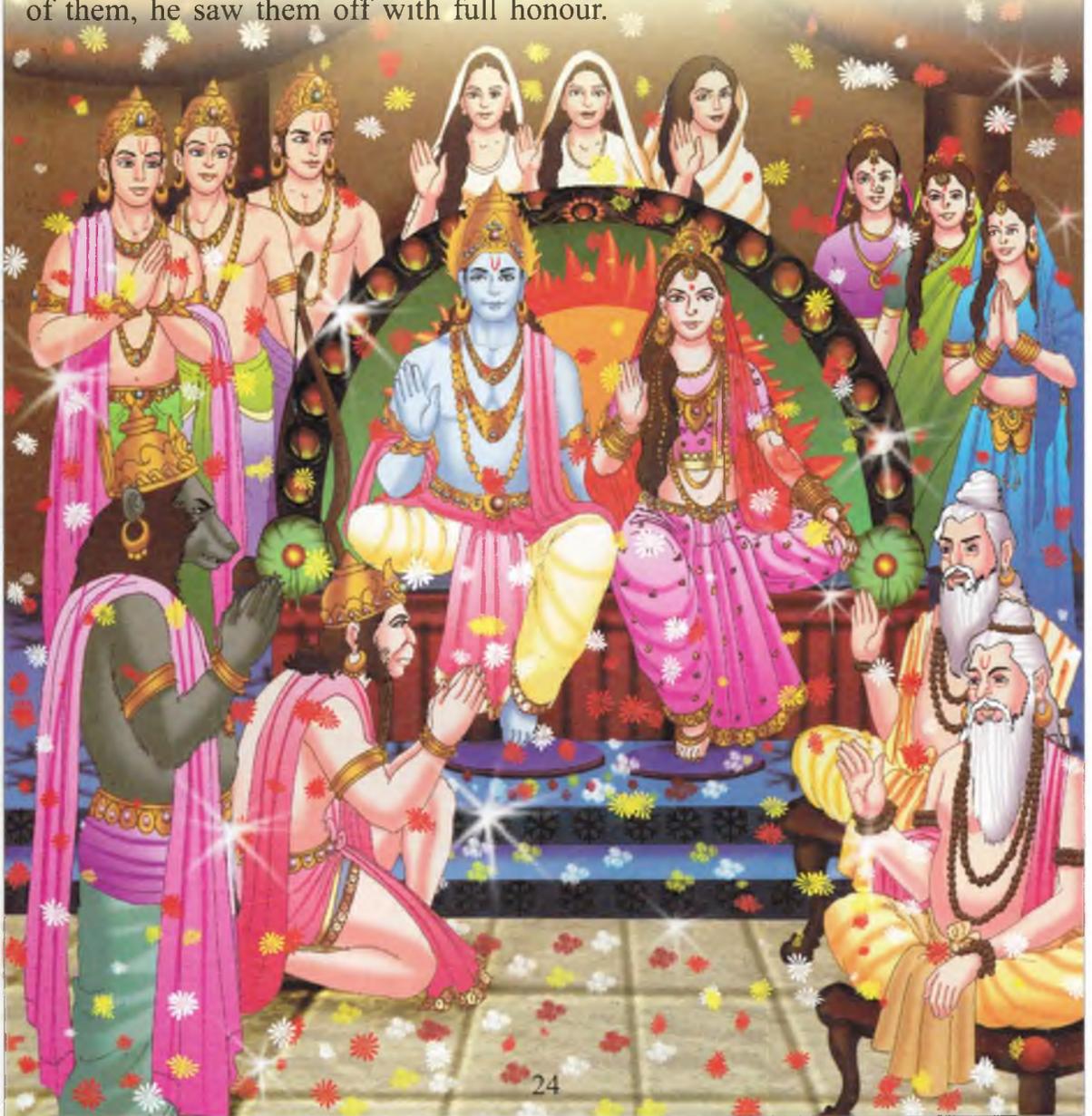


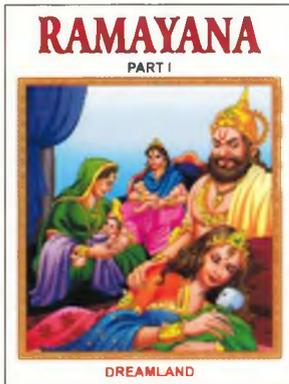
Rama having reached Ayodhya, Saint Vasishtha summoned a meeting of all the courtiers. Also, scholarly Brahmanas were consulted. He said, "The day of today is a red-letter day indeed. Rama has returned safe and sound after his 14-year exile. Please confer among yourselves whether it is proper to coronate Ram today or not."

Hearing this, all the people spoke in one voice, "Revered Saint ! any delay in this auspicious event is not good." So, directed by Saint Vasishtha, Rama, Sita and Lakshmana took off their mendicant robes. Each of them had a bath and got dressed in a royal robe. Then Rama was seated on the throne and his Coronation was performed in a befitting manner. The spectators raised slogans—Victory to Rama and Sita.

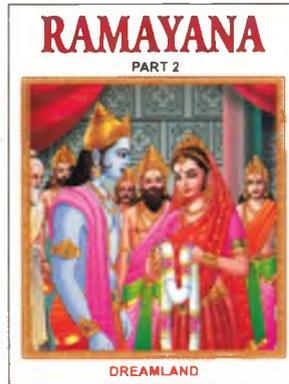


Now, Rama held his court as the King of Ayodhya. Sugreeva, Angad and many other Vanara dignitaries were present. Rama addressed them and said, "All of you have served me a lot. All of you are far from your families for my sake only. Not only this, you have even forsaken your comforts for me. I am highly grateful to you all. How long will you keep serving me like that ? Be kind enough to return to your places and perform your duties for your families and people there." Hearing these words, the Vanaras stood agape. No words could come out of their lips due to emotion. Then, Rama sermonised them on the worldly life and showering valuable gifts on each of them, he saw them off with full honour.

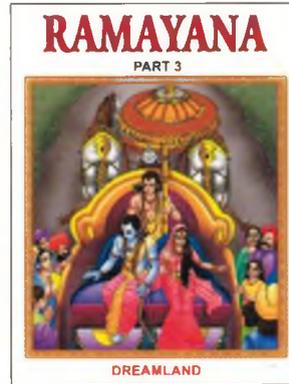




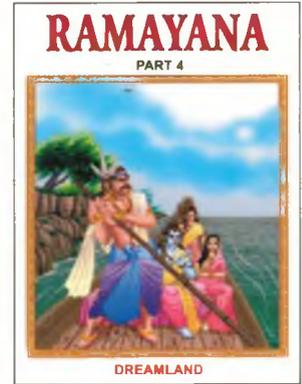
Childhood Episode-I



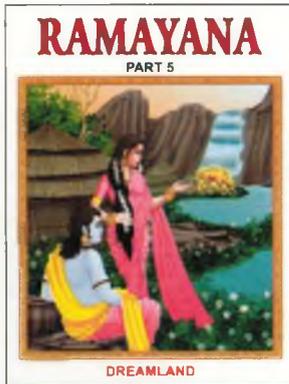
Childhood Episode-II



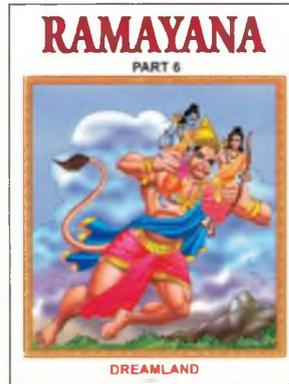
Ayodhya Episode-I



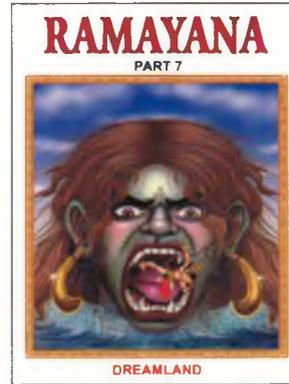
Ayodhya Episode-II



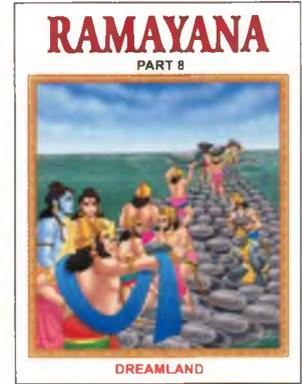
Forest Episode



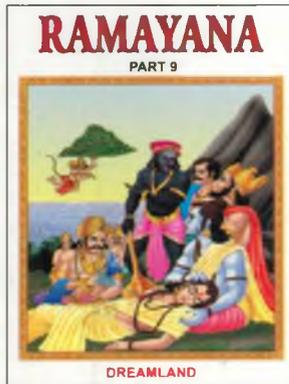
Kishkindha Episode



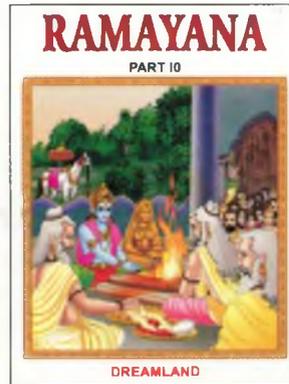
Fascinating Episode



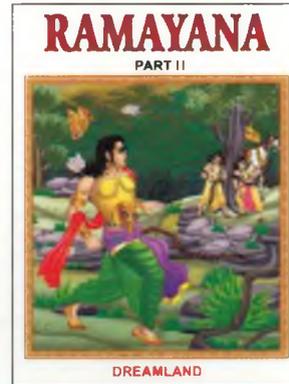
Battle Episode-I



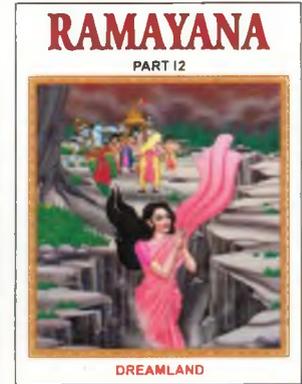
Battle Episode-II



Uttara Episode



Lava-Kusha Episode-I



Lava-Kusha Episode-II



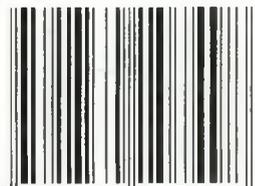
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PHONE : 011- 2510 6050, 2545 5657, FAX : 011- 2543 8283

E-mail : dreamland@vsnl.com  
www.dreamlandpublications.com

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