



The Adventures of Lord Rama

(Madhava Class)

Hare Krishna Sunday School
International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-acharya: His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

Name: _____

Class: _____

The Adventures of Lord Rama

Compiled by:
Sangita devi dasi

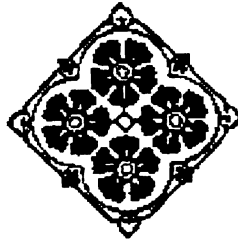
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*This book is dedicated to
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
who taught us by his example how to live our lives
in the service of Lord Krishna.*

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Introduction

Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appears at various times in the material world to destroy the demoniac and to protect His devotees. Long ago, Lord Krishna appeared as Ramacandra, the son of King Dasaratha. During this pastime, Lord Rama performed many great deeds that were written about in the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. A great sage named Valmiki also described His transcendental pastimes in *The Ramayana*.

In this session you will learn some of the wonderful adventures performed by Lord Rama while He was present on the Earth. A play of *The Ramayana* is provided at the end of your workbook. Perhaps with the assistance of your teachers and parents, your class can perform this play so others can also learn about the transcendental qualities and pastimes exhibited by the Lord in His incarnation as Lord Ramacandra.



Session Verse

*tasyapi bhagavan esa
saksad brahmamayo harih
amsamsena caturdhagat
putratvam prarthitah suraih
rama-laksmmana-bharata-
satrughna iti samjnaya*

Translation

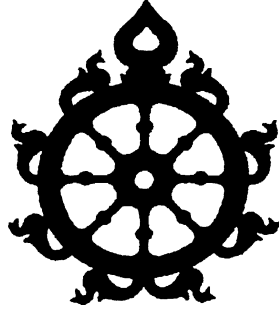
Being prayed for by the demigods,
the Supreme Personality of Godhead,
the Absolute Truth Himself, directly appeared
with His expansion and expansions of the
expansion. Their holy names were
Rama, Laksmana, Bharata and Satrughna.
These celebrated incarnations thus appeared in
four forms as the sons of Maharaja Dasaratha.

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, Canto 9, Ch.10, Text 2)

Lesson One

Thousands of years ago, Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appeared on Earth as Ramacandra. His brothers were Laksmana, Bharata and Satrugha. Their father, Dasaratha, was a great and noble king who was loved by all the residents of Ayodha. King Dasaratha was getting too old to rule the kingdom, however, and decided it was time to turn over the title of king to his eldest son, Rama. All of the citizens loved Rama and were very happy to hear about King Dasaratha's decision. Everyone was pleased except an old maidservant named Mantara who went to Kaikeyi, one of Dasaratha's wives, with an evil plan.





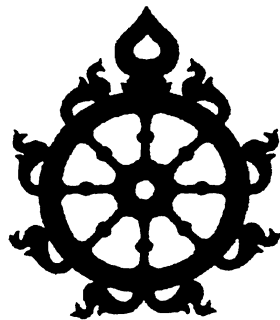
“Do you remember when you cared for your husband when he was ill?” Mantara asked Kaikeyi.

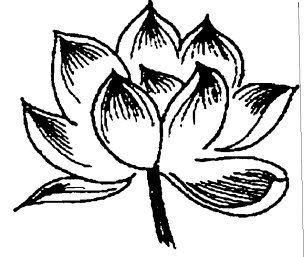
“Yes,” Kaikeyi replied.

“Well, at that time, the king promised you two boons,” Mantara continued. “And now is the time to ask for them. You must tell the king to crown your son, Bharata, as king instead of Rama. That will be your first boon.”

“And the second?” Kaikeyi asked.

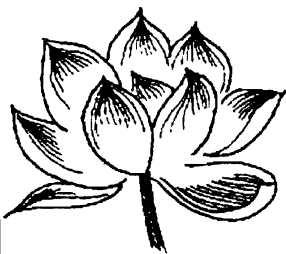
“You must tell your husband to ban Rama to the forest for 14 years. Tell the king that nothing else will satisfy you. These two promises must be kept.”





Being bound by his promise, King Dasaratha crowned Bharata as the new king and ordered Rama to go to the forest for 14 years. Lord Rama, as an obedient son, accepted the order immediately and left for the forest along with His brother, Laksmana, and His wife, Sita, who insisted on going with her husband.

Soon after they left for the forest, Dasaratha became so heartbroken that he became ill and died. Rama, Sita and Laksmana, wearing simple clothes, wandered through the forest searching for a place to live.



Check for Understanding

Match by Drawing Lines:



Rama

Lord Rama's father

Dasaratha

Incarnation of Krishna

Mantara

Lord Rama's wife

Kaikeyi

Lord Rama's brother

Sita

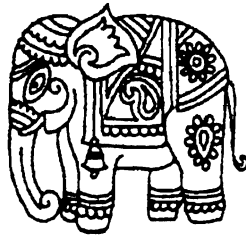
Keikeyi's maidservant

Bharata

Dasaratha's wife

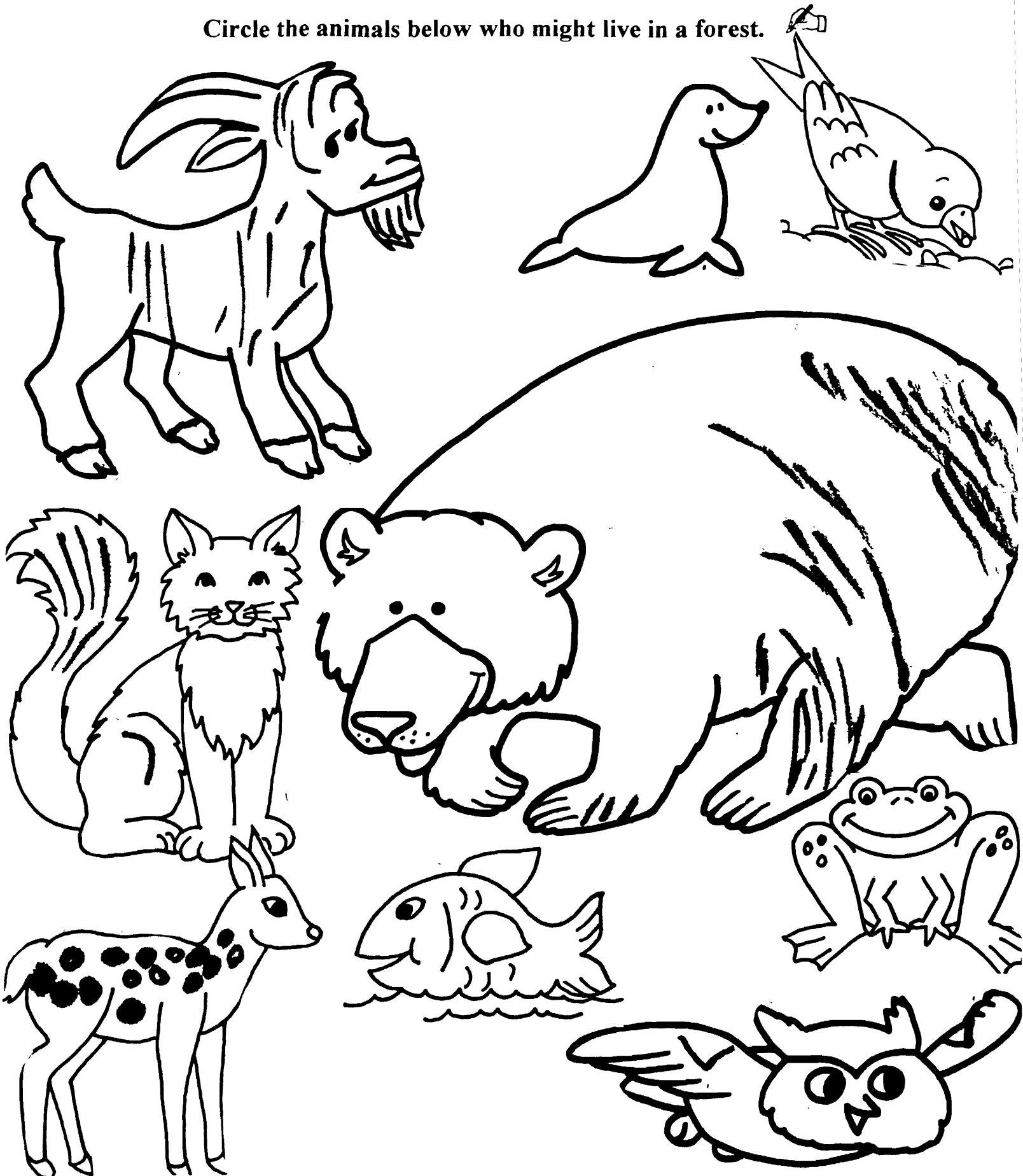
Laksmana

Was crowned King



Lord Rama saw many animals while He was in the forest.

Circle the animals below who might live in a forest.



Search for Lord Rama's Cottage in the Forest

Board Game Instructions: (For 2-3 Players)

1. Cut all game cards and player pieces at the dotted lines.
2. Put all game cards in one pile.
3. Each player chooses a player piece and places it at "Start."
4. Going clockwise, each player takes a turn choosing one card. That player moves his player piece according to what is written on the card that was chosen. Example: Move 2 steps forward to seek Lord Rama's cottage. (That player would move his/her piece two squares forward.) Example: You run into one thousand demons in the forest. Move one step back. (That player would move his/her player piece back one square.)
5. There are only three paths which lead to Lord Rama's cottage in the center of the game board. A player MUST land on the square leading to one of these paths in order to travel on the path leading to the cottage. If he/she must jump over the square leading to the cottage, the player must keep going around the board until he/she can land on another square which leads up the path to the Lord's cottage. The first player to reach the cottage wins the game!

Cut game cards at the dotted lines: ✂ ---

✂	Cross a river. move forward 3 spaces.	Stop to pick mangos. Go back 1 space.	Travel to waterfall. move forward 4 spaces.
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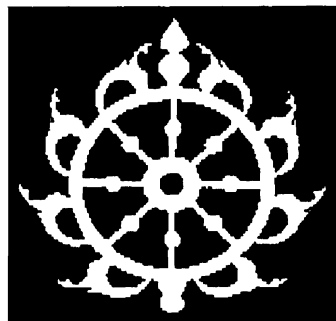
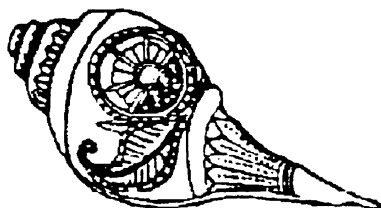
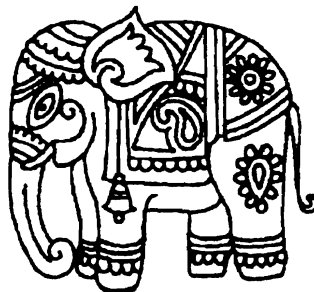
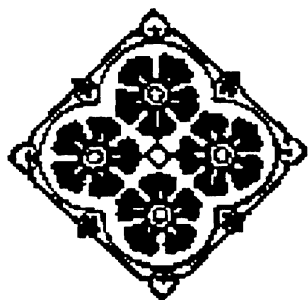
✂	Run into an army of demons. Lose a Turn.	Get directions from a monkey soldier. move forward 1 space.	climb a mountain. move forward 2 spaces.
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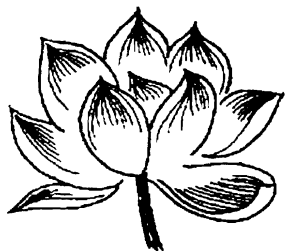
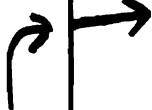
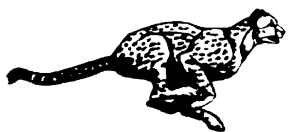
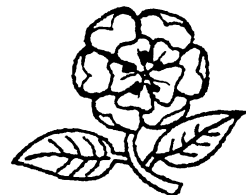
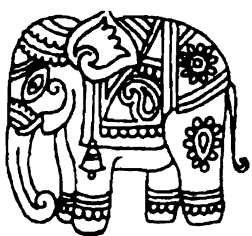
✂	meet a saintly person. move forward 2 spaces.	Stop to gather flowers. Lose a turn.	Get lost for a day. move back 1 space.
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✂

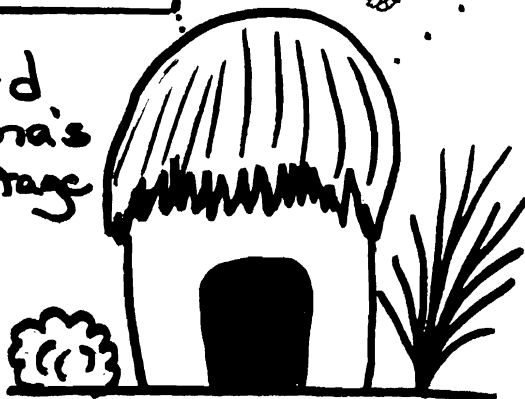
✂ Start traveling at sunrise. move forward 3 spaces.	Find a secret map. move forward 1 space.	Get a ride from a friendly elephant. move forward 5 spaces.
✂ Set up camp for the night. move forward 1 space.	Follow a deer down a path. move forward 1 space.	Forest sage invites you for lunch. move forward 2 spaces.
✂ Fall into a demon's trap. Lose a Turn.	Stop to swim in a lake. Go back 1 space.	It rains all night. You sleep in a cave. Lose a turn.
✂ Discover a short-cut. move forward 3 spaces.	moon is full. Travel all night. move forward 4 spaces.	Build a raft to cross a river. move forward 2 spaces.
✂		

Cut out player pieces:





Lord
Rama's
Cottage



Start ↑



Lesson Two

Lord Rama, Sita and Laksmana spent the next few years wandering through the forest. They were often greeted by saintly persons living within the forest who were being troubled by wicked demons.

“Oh, Lord Rama,” one sage prayed. “Please help us. We live in the forest to lead a peaceful life, but the demons constantly attack us.”

“Do not fear,” Rama said. “My brother and I will protect you. From this day you will live in peace.”

The two brothers killed many of the demons and sent the others running for their lives.





One sage presented Rama with an invincible golden bow and a magical quiver which would never become empty of arrows. This saintly person told Rama to travel to a beautiful place in the forest called Panchavati.

“The fearful forest holds little charm for a fine lady like Sita,” the sage said. “In Pancavati there are running brooks, fruit trees and fragrant flowers. The Godavari River is not far from Pancavati. It will be an ideal place for you to stay.”

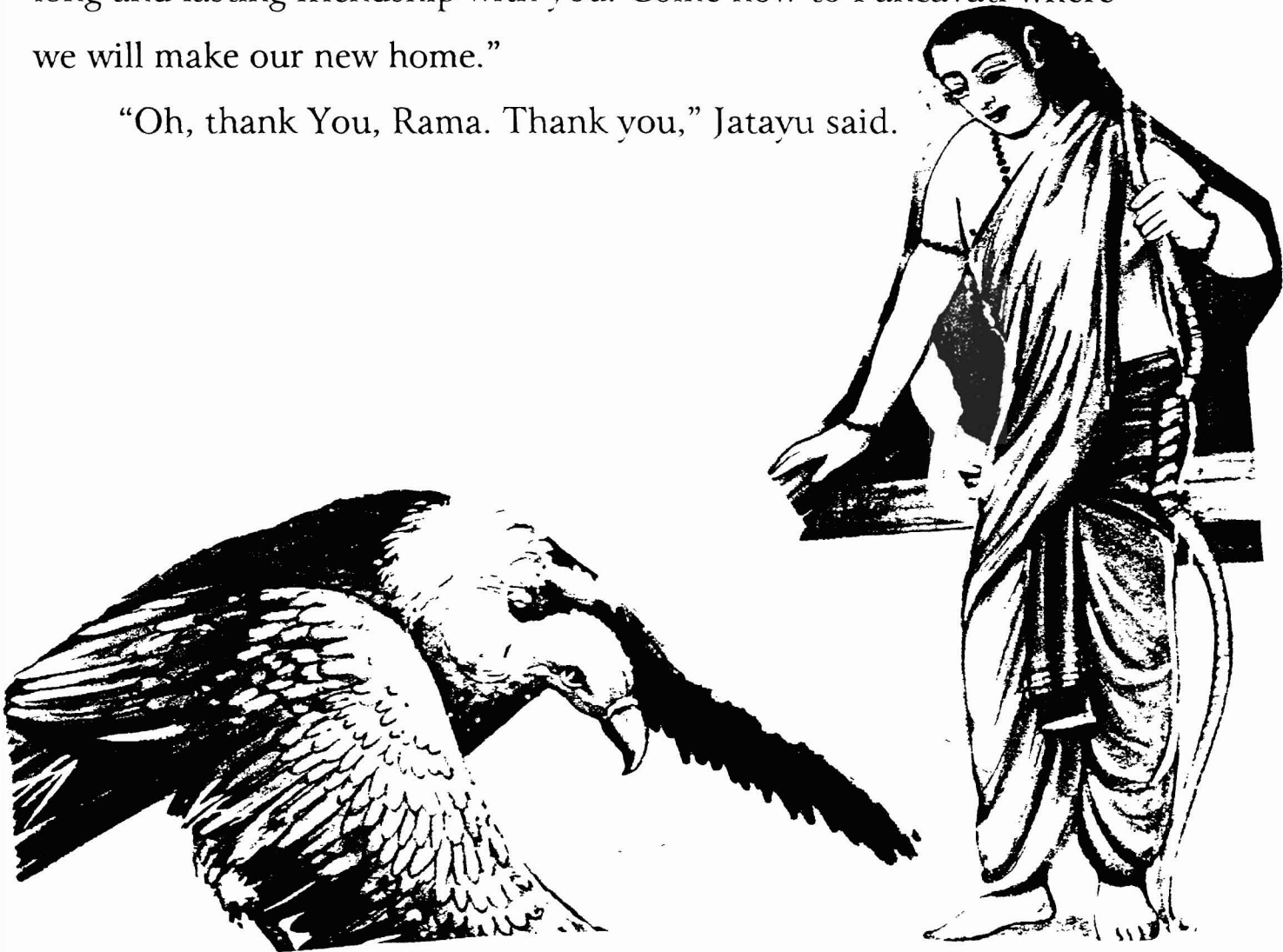
On their way to Pancavati, Rama, Sita and Laksmana came across a huge creature perched in a large tree. Rama thought he was a demon.

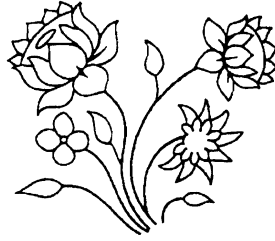
“Be careful, Laksmana,” Rama shouted. “Demon, beware of the power of my invincible bow.”

“Rama, do not harm me,” the bird said. “I am a friend of Your father, King Dasaratha. I am just an old eagle named Jatayu. Please allow me to help You during Your stay in the forest. Perhaps I could protect Sita whenever You must leave her alone.”

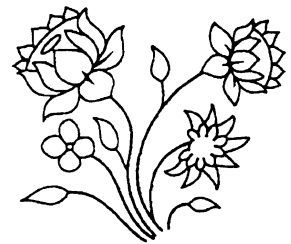
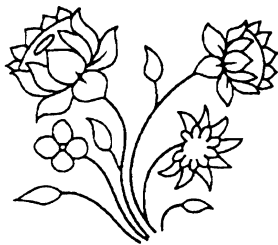
“Dear Jatayu, I thank you for your offer and look forward to a long and lasting friendship with you. Come now to Pancavati where we will make our new home.”

“Oh, thank You, Rama. Thank you,” Jatayu said.



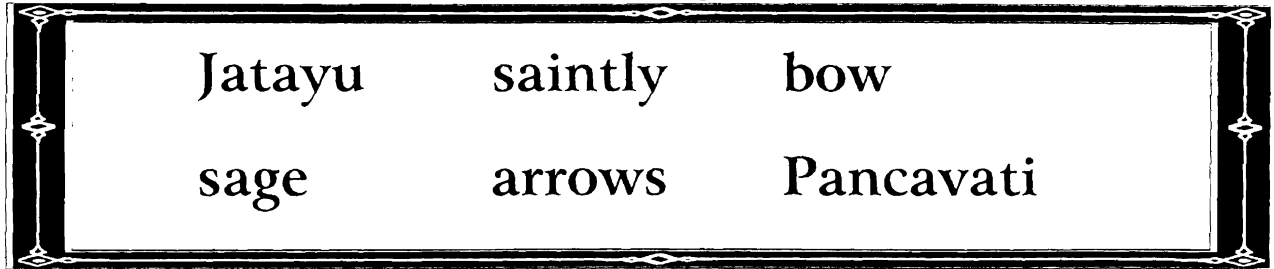


After arriving in Pancavati, Laksmana built a cottage for Rama and Sita. Jatayu lived in a tree nearby. Each day Sita gathered flowers and strung beautiful garlands for Rama. Laksmana collected cool water from the river. There were many berries and fruit trees nearby. Together they lived a simple and quiet life in their new home.



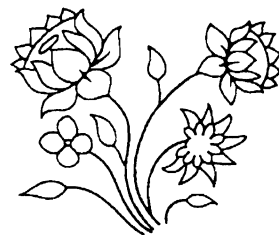
Check for Understanding

Complete the sentences using the words in the box:



1. Rama, Sita and Laksmana met many _____ persons in the forest.
2. A great _____ gave Rama a golden _____.
3. Rama was also given a magical quiver that would never run out of _____.
4. Rama, Laksmana and Sita met an old eagle named _____.
5. Rama, Laksmana and Sita made their home in a beautiful place called _____.





Make Sita's Basket and Flowers

Follow the directions below to make a basket filled with flowers. You will need:

crayons

scissors

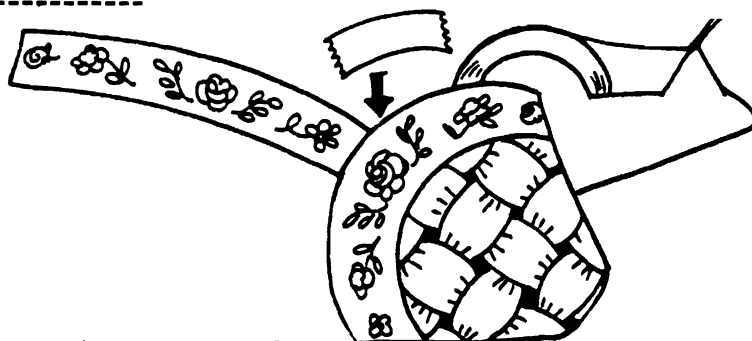
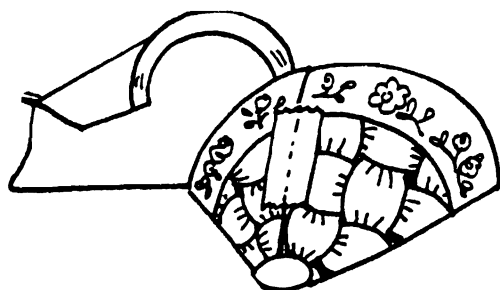
tape

craft sticks (Popsicle sticks)

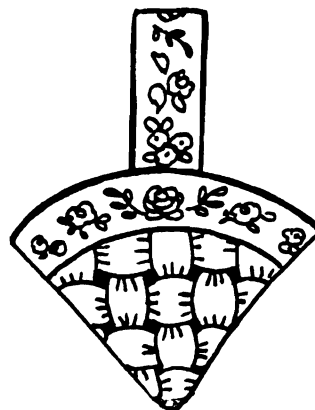
1. Carefully remove the next page from your workbook. Color both pieces. Cut ✂ out the half circle basket and the strip.

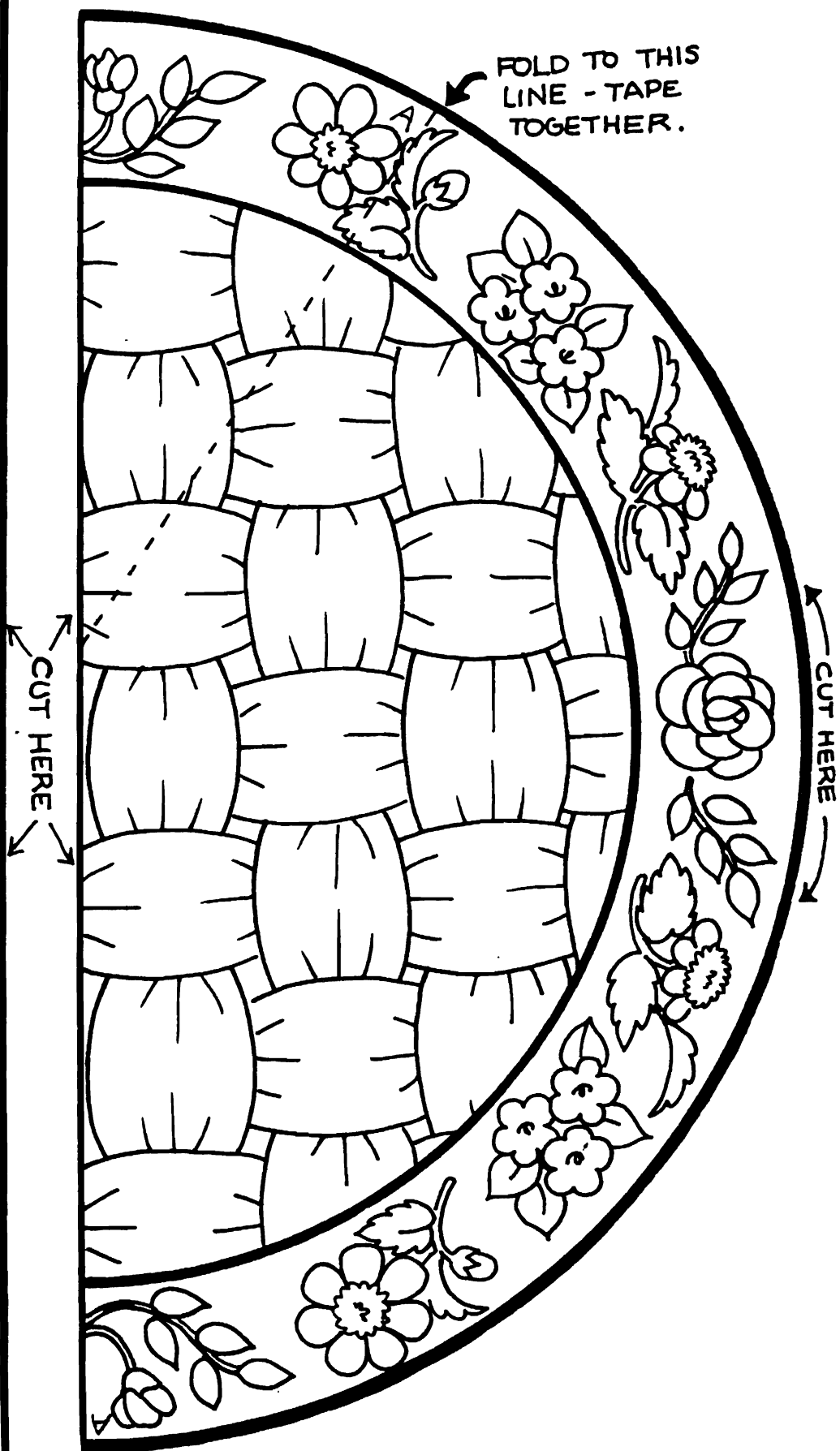
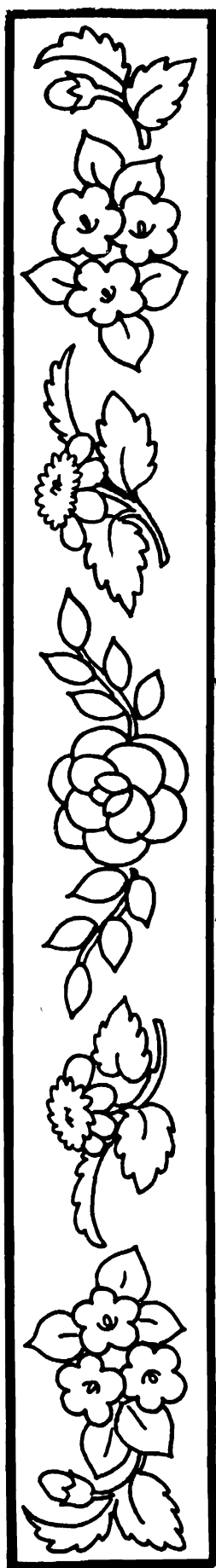


2. Join A to A. This will form the basket. Tape the basket together along the dotted line. -----

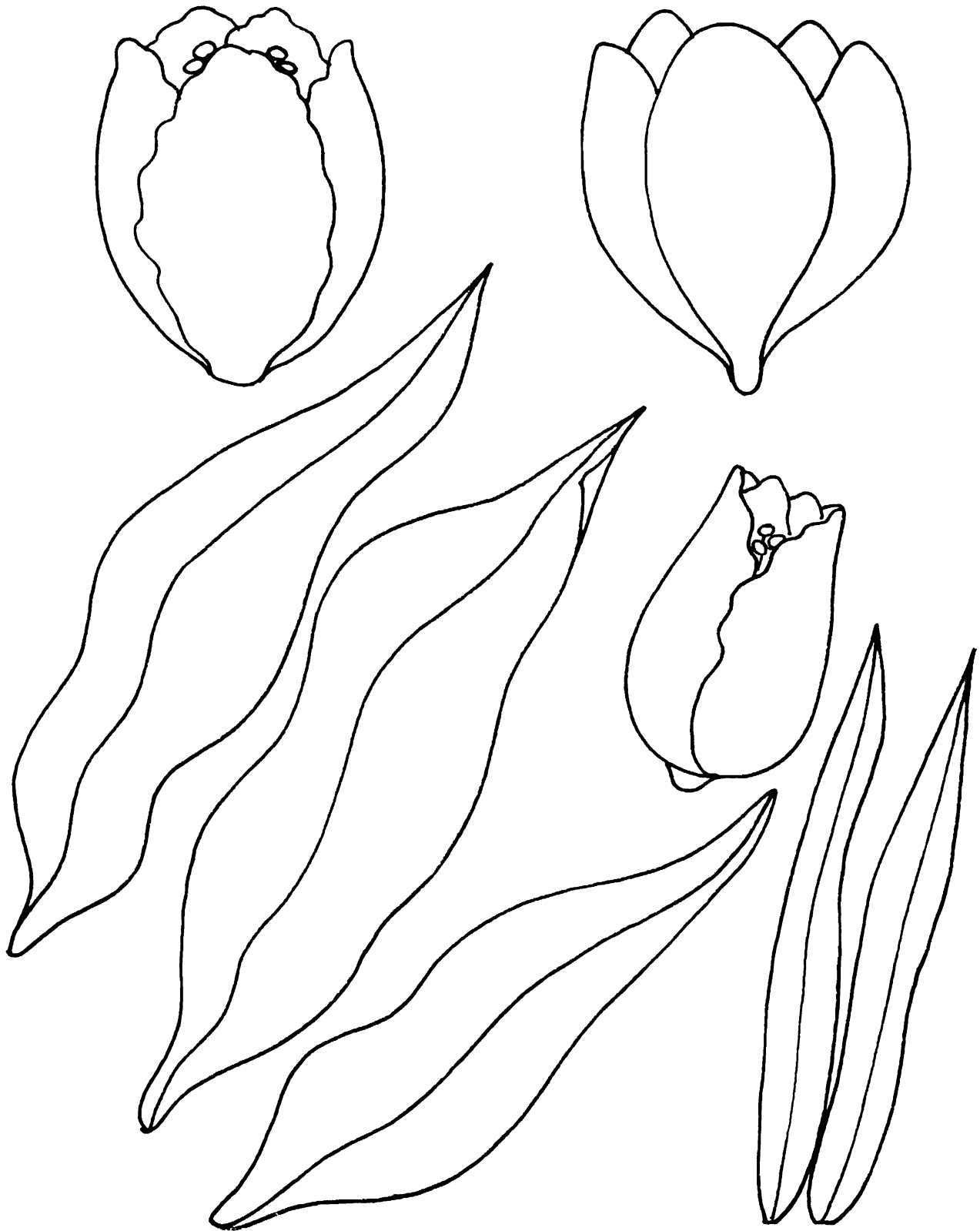


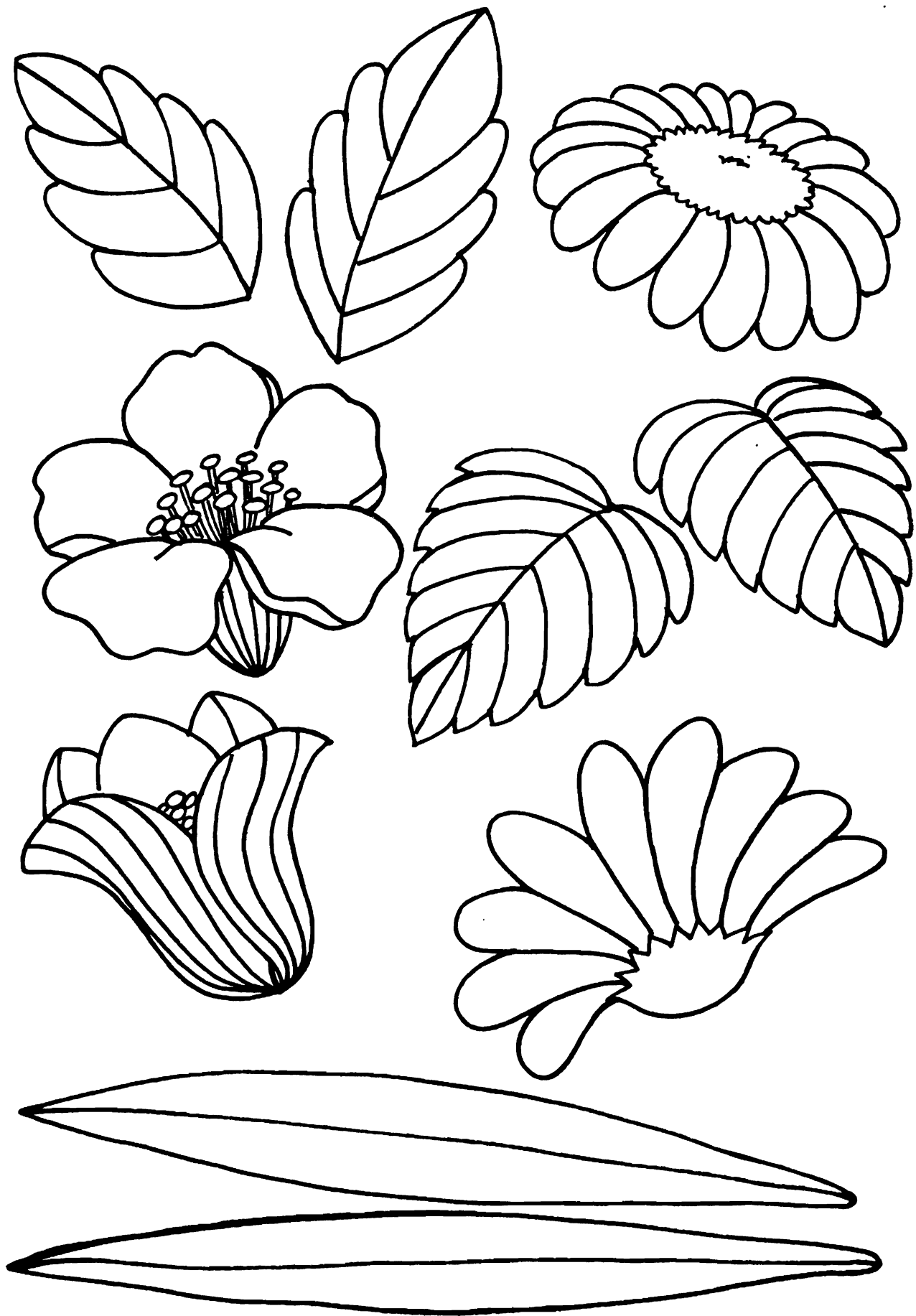
3. Tape the strip onto the basket at the top to form the handle.





Carefully remove the two flower pages. Color the flowers and leaves, then cut them out. Tape them onto sticks or tongue depressors and set them in your basket.





Lesson Three

One day, a she-demon approached Lord Rama's cottage. She was the sister of the ten-headed demon, Ravana, the King of Lanka. Her name was Surpanaka. She was terribly ugly, but used her powers to assume the form of a beautiful young girl. As soon as she saw Rama, she wanted to marry Him.

"Oh, handsome one," she said to Rama. "Who are you? You have such beautiful limbs and a very handsome face. Kindly come with me, Surpanaka, and wander through the woods. We could be so happy together."





“I am so sorry that I cannot accept your offer,” Rama said in a joking way. “I am already married. See my wife, Sita? But, I have a brother, Laksmana, who is not married. I think he would make a better husband for you.”

“Oh, You are so right,” Surpanaka said. “Come and marry me, Laksmana.”

Rama and Laksmana laughed causing Surpanaka to get angry.

“You dare to laugh at me!” Surpanaka said. She then turned toward Sita.

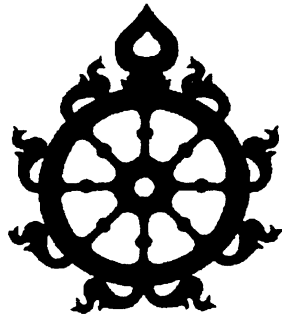
“It is that horrible creature, Sita, who stands between me and You,” Surpanaka told Rama. “I will kill her and marry You by force!”

Suddenly, Surpanaka attacked Sita. Laksmana quickly drew his sword and cut off Surpanaka's ears and nose. Screaming loudly, the she-demon ran away to tell her story to her two demon-brothers, Khara and Dushana. They were filled with rage!

"How dare these two humans insult our sister!" Khara shouted. "Fear not, Surpanaka. We will carry out your revenge!"

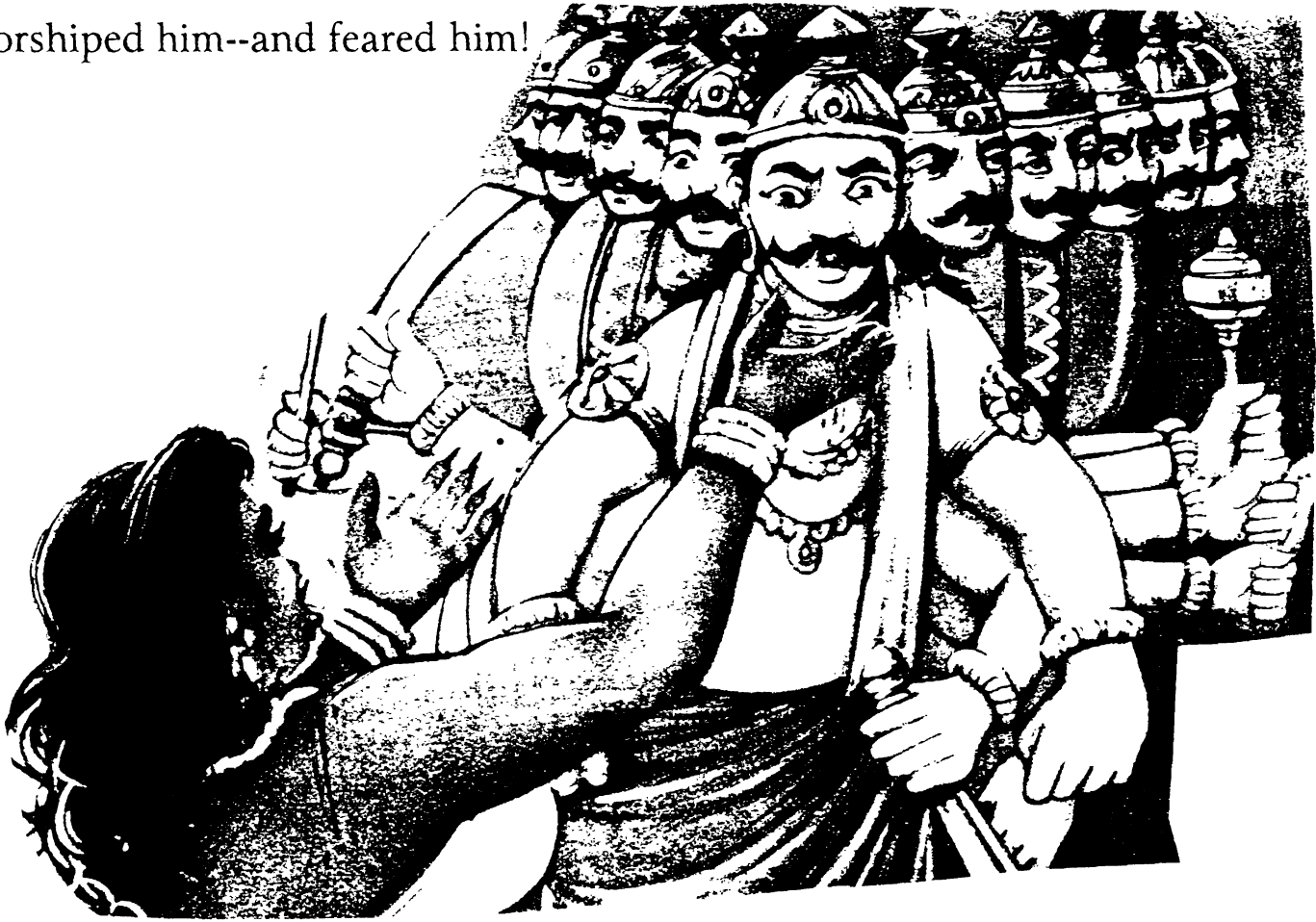


Khara and Dushana headed a fierce army of fourteen thousand demon-soldiers. With their many weapons, horses and chariots they attacked Rama's cottage. The whole Earth trembled as the army of demons approached the tiny cottage. Rama sent Laksmana with Sita to hide in a mountain cave. Rama was to fight the mighty demon-army alone.



Then Rama strung His golden bow. He sent streams of deadly arrows toward the army and immediately killed thousands of demon-soldiers. The many demons who were still fighting shouted loudly at Rama. They used their magical powers to turn their arrows into serpents as they flew through the air. Nothing could defeat the strength of Rama. Soon the entire army was killed by Rama, including Khara and Dushana, the two brothers of Surpanaka.

Seeing her brothers and their entire army killed, Surpanaka rushed to tell her eldest brother, Ravana. Ravana was the ten-headed demon-king of the golden city, Lanka. Living in his golden palace, Ravana was very cruel and struck fear in the hearts of all living beings. Seated on his golden throne and adorned with brilliant jewels, Ravana appeared as brilliant as the sun. All the demons worshiped him--and feared him!

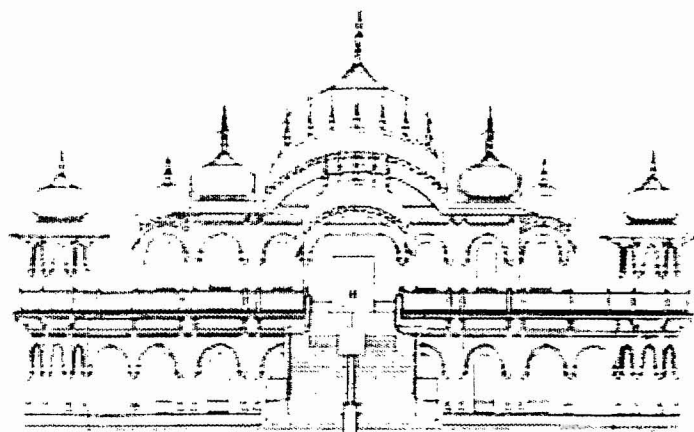


“My dear Sister,” Ravana said. “Who has cut off your nose and ears? Tell me. Tell me and I will avenge this insult to our family!”

“It was the two sons of Dasaratha, King of Kosala,” Surpanaka said. “They are wandering fearlessly through our forests. They have not only dared to do this to me, but have killed our brothers, Khara and Dushana and destroyed their entire army, as well. They are accompanied by the wife of Rama. Her name is Sita. She is beautiful, my dear brother. She would make a perfect wife for you. You must avenge this insult to our family!”

“How can one man kill an army of fourteen thousand demon-soldiers?” Ravana asked. “Even so, He is no match for me. I am the most powerful king in the universe! Fear not, dear sister. I have a plan. I shall seek the help of Mareecha, the magician. Together we shall trick this Rama and I shall carry off Sita as my bride.”

All the demons cheered as Ravana began his plans to kidnap Sita and bring her to his golden palace in Lanka.



Check for Understanding

Match by drawing lines: 

Surpanaka

Magician

Khara

Sister of Ravana

Dushana

Brother of Ravava

Mareecha

Ten-headed
demon-king

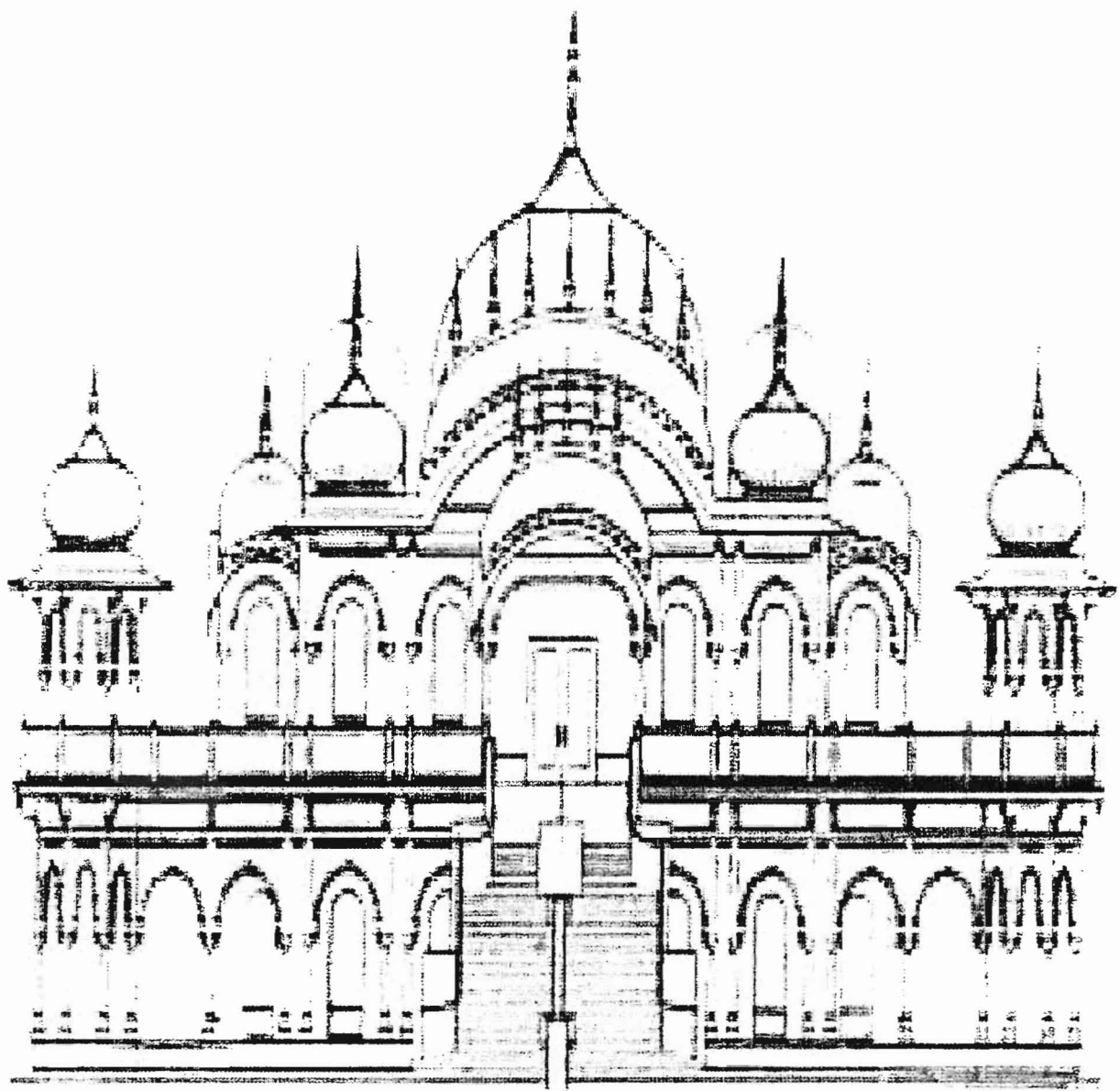
Ravana

Golden city

Lanka

Brother of Ravana

Color the Golden Palace in Lanka



Fill in the missing letters in the words below:

R _ V _ N A

L _ N K _

_ A M A

K H _ R _

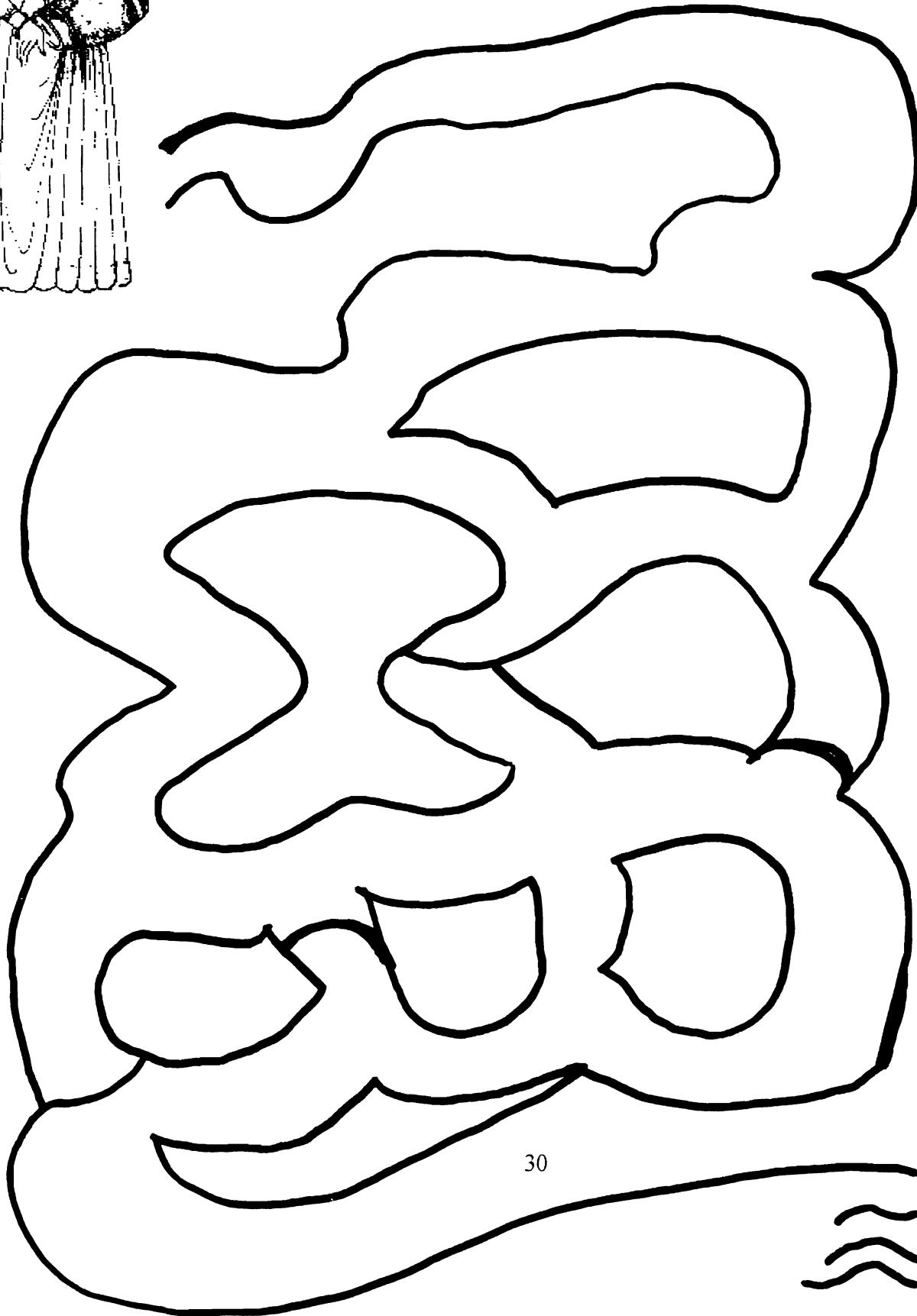
S U _ P A _ A K _

S _ T _

L _ K S M _ N _



Sita must walk from her cottage to the river
to pick flowers for Lord Rama.
Trace the path she must take.

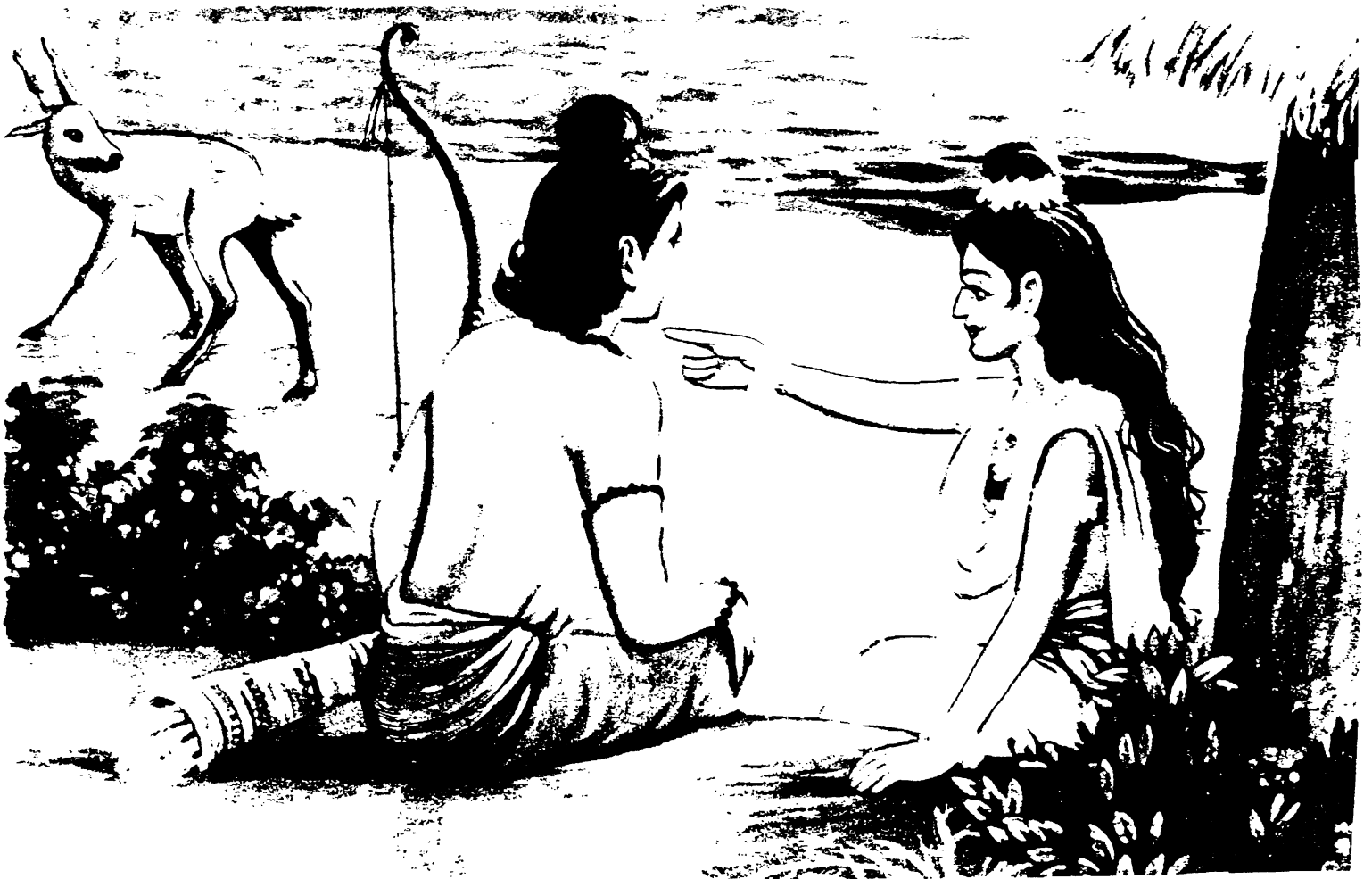


Lesson Four

Ravana went to see Mareecha, the magician, who agreed to help Ravana with his wicked plan to kidnap Sita. They traveled to Pancavati where they saw Rama's cottage.

Mareecha used his magic to assume the form of a beautiful, golden deer. He gracefully moved through the forest to attract Sita's attention. She had never seen such a wonderful animal.

"Rama, Laksmana, come and see this beautiful animal," Sita said. "I would love to have it as my pet. Please catch it for me."



“Rama, beware of this animal,” Laksmana said. “It is too beautiful to be true. It must be a trick of the demons.”

“Laksmana, do not fear,” Rama said. “Sita shall have the deer. If it is a trick of the demons, as you say, I will bring it down with my bow. Guard Sita for me while I am gone. Under no circumstances should you leave her alone in the forest.”

Rama went far away from the cottage to catch the deer. Mareecha, the magician, imitated Rama’s voice and cried out for help.

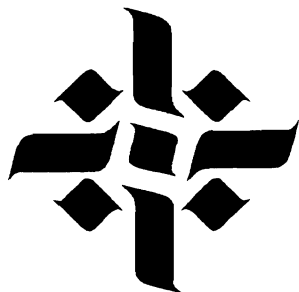
“Laksmana, help me,” Mareecha yelled, sounding like Rama.

Thinking the voice to be Rama’s, Sita begged Laksmana to help her husband.

“Do not worry,” Laksmana said. “Rama can defeat any demon or beast. This cry for help must be a trick of the demons.”

With harsh words, Sita convinced Laksmana to go immediately into the forest to find Rama. Laksmana felt he had no choice but to leave Sita alone. But, before he left, Laksmana drew a magical circle around the cottage.

“Under no circumstances are you to step outside this circle,” Laksmana instructed Sita. “This circle shall protect you while I am gone.”





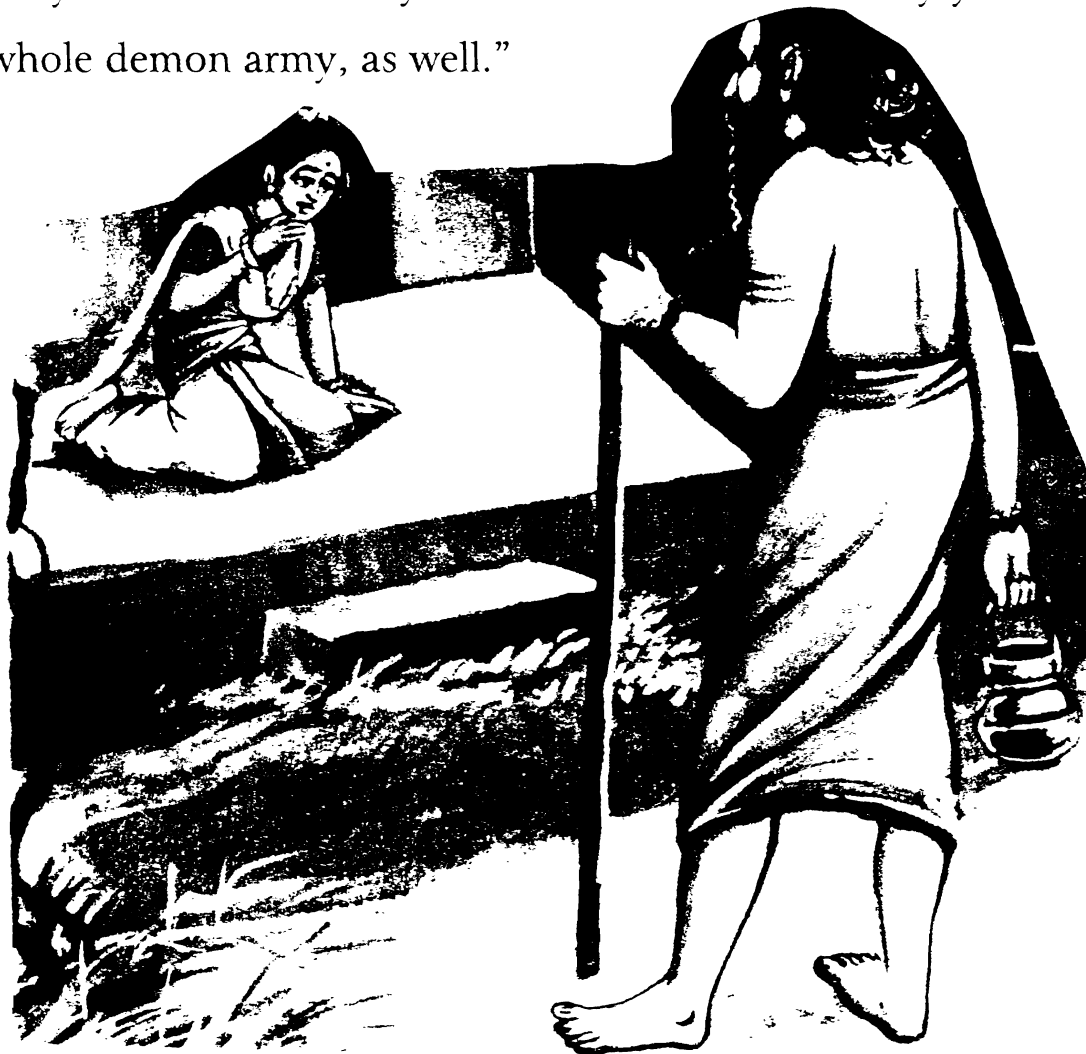
While Laksmana was searching for Rama, Rama chased after the golden deer. The more Rama pursued it, the farther it strayed from the cottage. Soon the deer led Rama deep into the forest.

After a while, Rama knew the deer to be a trick. With His sharp arrow, He shot the deer. When the arrow struck it, the deer regained the form of Mareecha. Fearing for Sita's safety, Rama rushed back toward the cottage. On His way, He met Laksmana.

This was the moment Ravana had been waiting for. Rama and Laksmana were now deep in the forest and Sita was alone. Disguised as a holy man, Ravana begged a drink of water from Sita. Pretending to be old and weak, he tricked Sita to cross the protective circle Laksmana had drawn around the cottage. Sita was now unprotected and standing with the King of the Demons!

“Why do you live here in this place, living so simple with this wretched Rama?” Ravana said, revealing his true identity. “You should live in a palace. Come with me, Ravana, and be my bride.”

“Oh, you cruel and wicked man,” Sita yelled. “Leave now, before my Rama returns. If you harm me, He will destroy you and your whole demon army, as well.”



Forcing Sita into his flying chariot, Ravana flew into the air. Sita was screaming for Rama and Laksmana to help her.

“Rama! Rama!” Sita cried. “Please come and save me.”
“Brother, Laksmana, please forgive me for my harsh words.”

Jatayu, Rama’s old eagle friend, heard Sita crying out for help. He flew toward Ravana on his chariot and scratched the demon’s arms and back with his sharp claws. The angry demon shot arrows at Jatayu and pierced his entire body. Although Jatayu was injured, he continued to try to save Sita. He attacked Ravana again and again. Ravana’s flying chariot was cut into pieces and landed on the ground. Now Ravana was even more angry. With his mighty sword, the demon cut off the wings and talons of Jatayu. Sita cried as she saw her friend fall to the ground.

With his magical powers, Ravana grabbed Sita and flew into the air toward Lanka.



While in the air with Ravana, Sita saw Sugriva, the King of the Monkeys, and his Chief Minister, Hanuman. Sita threw some jewels in their direction hoping they would deliver them to Rama. Speeding through the air over land and water, the helpless Sita finally saw the golden city of Lanka.

Meanwhile, Rama and Laksmana arrived at the empty cottage.

“Where is My Sita?” Rama said. “Laksmana, I fear we have been the victims of an evil trick. How could you have disobeyed by orders and left Sita alone?”

“Her harsh words forced me to go into the forest to find you,” Laksmana explained. “I did not leave her unprotected. I created a magical circle around the cottage so she would be protected.”

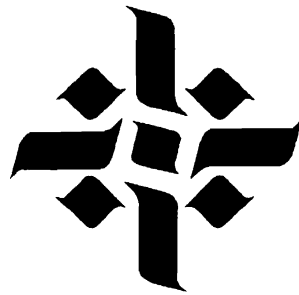
Rama and Laksmana searched the forest. They discovered Their old friend, Jatayu, wounded on the ground.



“Jatayu,” Rama said. “Who has done this to you?”

“It was the evil demon, Ravana,” Jatayu softly said. “He took Sita with him. They flew south toward Lanka. You shall find Sita and be happy once again.”

Chanting the name of Rama, Jatayu left his body. Rama and Laksmana cried for the loss of Their dear friend. They then continued Their search for Sita.



Check for Understanding

Let's Review What You Have Learned!

Put the following events in order of when they happened by placing numbers 1-9 in front of each statement.

- _____ Surpanaka attacks Sita. Laksmana cuts off her ears and nose.
- _____ Rama is banished to the forest for 14 years.
- _____ Rama defeats the army of Khara and Dushana.
- _____ Rama, Laksmana and Sita meet Jatayu.
- _____ Sita sees the golden deer.
- _____ Laksmana draws a magical circle around the cottage to protect Sita.
- _____ Rama, Laksmana and Sita meet many saintly persons in the forest who warn Them about the demons.
- _____ Ravana kidnaps Sita while Rama and Laksmana are gone.
- _____ Jatayu is killed by Ravana.

????????????????

When Did It Happen?

Instructions for Sequence of Events Game:

- 1) Cut cards along the dotted lines ✂- - -
- 2) Mix cards and place in a pile.
- 3) Each student takes a turn reading the card and then placing it in the row where it belongs. When all cards are placed, they should tell the story in proper order.

✂-----	King Dasaratha dies.	Sita sees the golden deer.	-----
✂-----	Rama, Lakshmana and Sita meet Jatayu.	Rama is banished to the forest for 14 years.	-----
✂-----	Rama makes His home in Panchavati.	Rama is given an invincible bow and magical quiver that would never be empty.	-----
✂-----			

✂ Surpanaka wants to marry Rama.

Rama defeats the army of Khara and Dushana

✂ Rama searches for the golden deer.

Lakshmana cuts off Surpanaka's nose and ears.

✂ Ravana kidnaps Sita. He takes her to Lanka.

Lakshmana leaves Sita alone.

✂ Ravana plans to kidnap Sita. He goes to Maricha, the magician.

Jatayu is killed by Ravana.

Draw a picture below of the golden deer 



Lesson Five

Rama and Laksmana traveled many days in search of Sita. Finally, they arrived at the camp where Sugriva, the monkey soldier, was living. Sugriva showed Rama the ornaments that Sita had dropped in his direction as she was being carried away by Ravana. Sugriva and his chief minister, Hanuman, promised to help Rama find Sita. Rama felt sure that Hanuman, a great monkey warrior, would meet with success.





“Take My ring,” Rama told Hanuman. “It will be a sign to Sita that you are My messenger.”

“I will not return until I find her,” Hanuman promised.

Hanuman and the army of monkeys traveled through forests, rivers, lakes and mountains until they reached the southern shore. The monkeys did not know how they would travel across the mighty ocean. Before all of the surprised monkeys, Hanuman grew to an enormous size. Hanuman appeared taller than a mountain. With a great leap he soared through the air until he reached the golden city of Lanka.





Finding Sita within the walls of the golden palace would be difficult. Hanuman was determined to find Sita, though, as he had promised Rama. Hanuman used his powers to make himself very, very small so he could pass through the city gates. He searched every house and garden, but could not find Sita. Finally, Hanuman entered the best and most beautiful building of all. There he found the beautiful Sita seated in the garden. She was crying and her face was covered with tears.



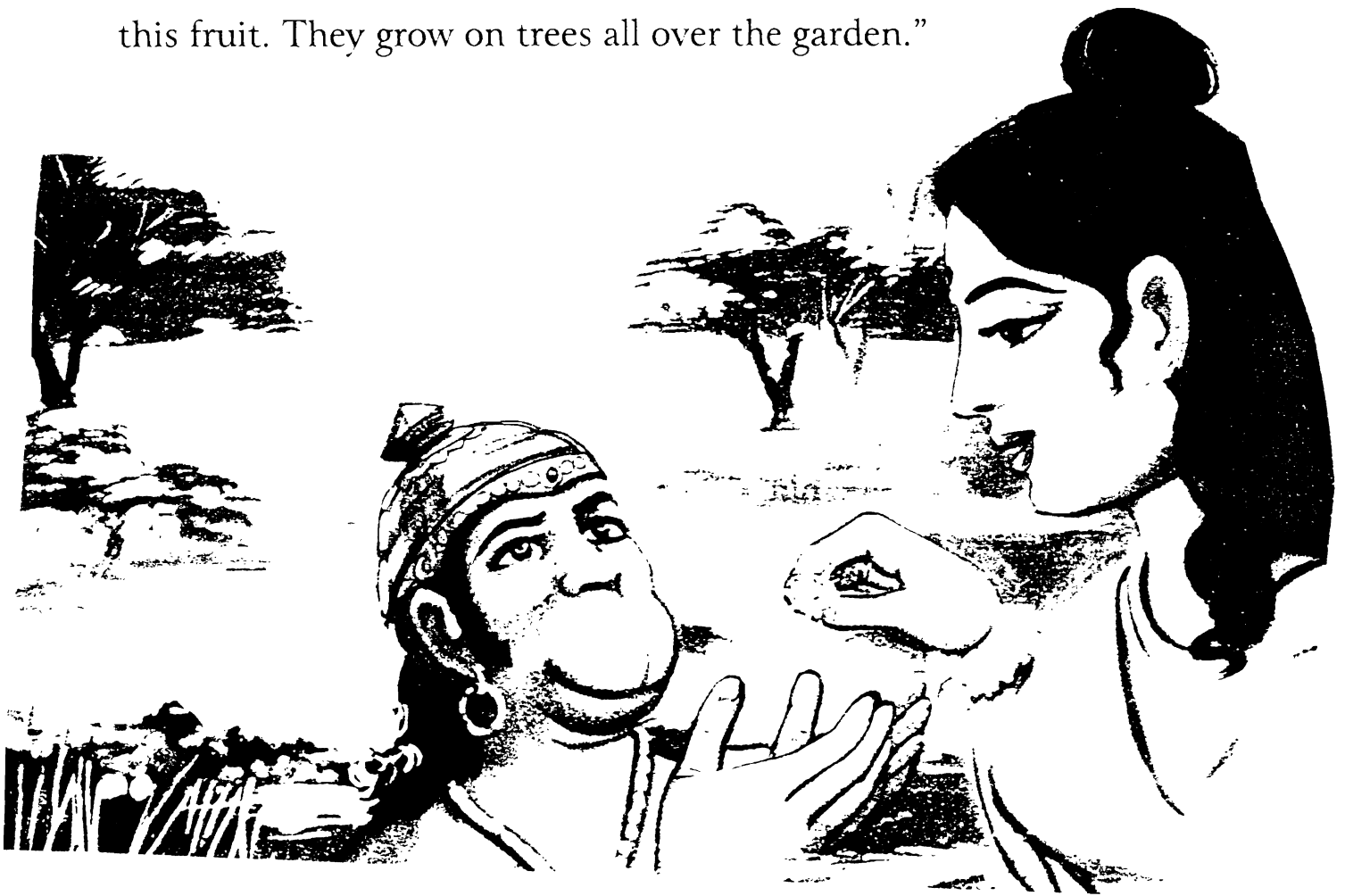
“Sita, I am Hanuman,” he said. “I am the servant of your husband. He has sent me to search for you.”

“How do I know you have been sent by Rama?” Sita asked.

“You may have been sent by the demons to trick me.”

“Here is His ring,” Hanuman said.

“It is His ring!” Sita said. “Forgive me, dear friend. Please give Rama my jewels so He knows that you have found me. Tell Him I wait day and night for His arrival. I miss Him terribly. Please accept this fruit. They grow on trees all over the garden.”



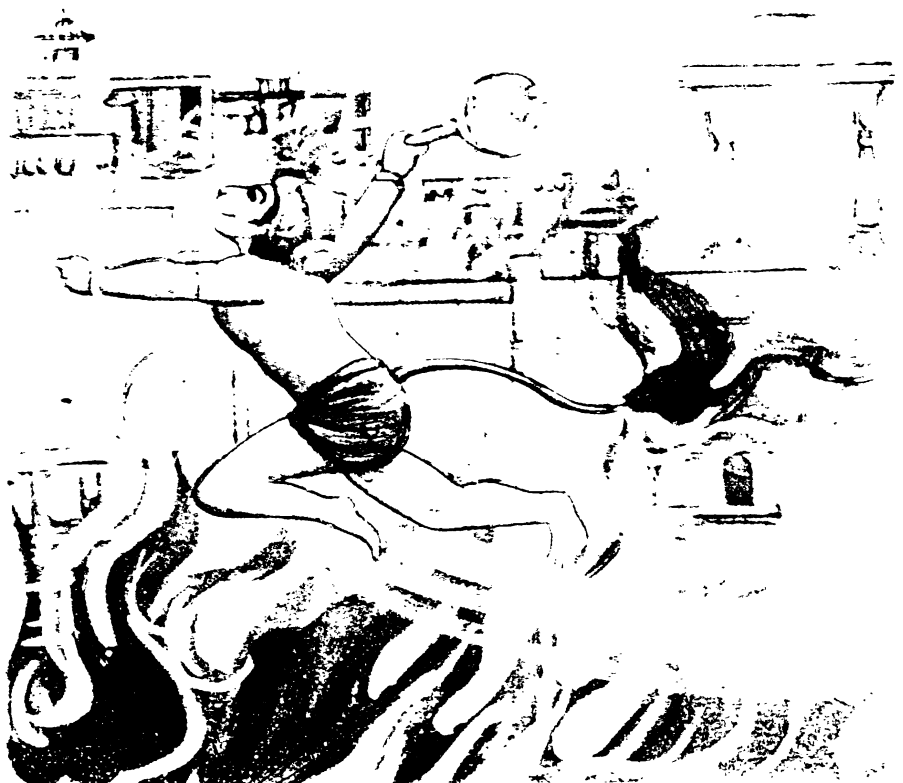
Hanuman liked the fruit so much that he swung from tree to tree eating all of the fruits. Soon the guards awoke. A fight broke out between Hanuman and the demon guards. Hanuman killed many of the guards, but finally he was captured and taken to Ravana.



“Who is this monkey?” Ravana said. “I will teach him a lesson. Guards! Set fire to his tail!”



Hanuman was tied with rope and his tail was set on fire. But, Hanuman became so small that he loosened the ropes and became free. Then he returned to his original size. He danced from building to building, swinging his tail and setting all of the buildings and gardens on fire. Only the garden where Sita sat remained untouched.



Hanuman then jumped into the ocean to put out the fire on his tail. With a giant leap, he flew across the ocean to tell Rama he had found Sita.



Check for Understanding

Fill in the blanks below: 

1. Rama and _____ searched the forest for Sita.
2. Sugriva and his chief minister, _____, promised to help Rama find Sita.
3. Hanuman and an army of _____ marched to the ocean.
4. Hanuman found Sita in a _____ in Lanka.
5. Hanuman showed Sita Rama's _____ to prove that Rama sent him.
6. Ravana ordered the guards to set _____ to Hanuman's tail.
7. Hanuman set the city of _____ on fire.

♪ Recite the following poem. ♪

Try to make up a tune so it can be sung.



Sita's face was bathed with tears
But, Hanuman soon dispelled her fears.
With one leap he jumped over the sea
To help Rama's plan to set Sita free.

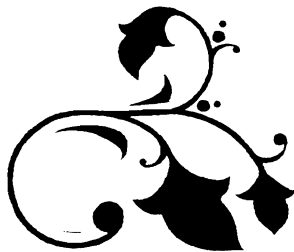
Jai Rama, Jai Rama
All glories to Lord Rama.
Jai Rama, Jai Rama
All glories to Rama.

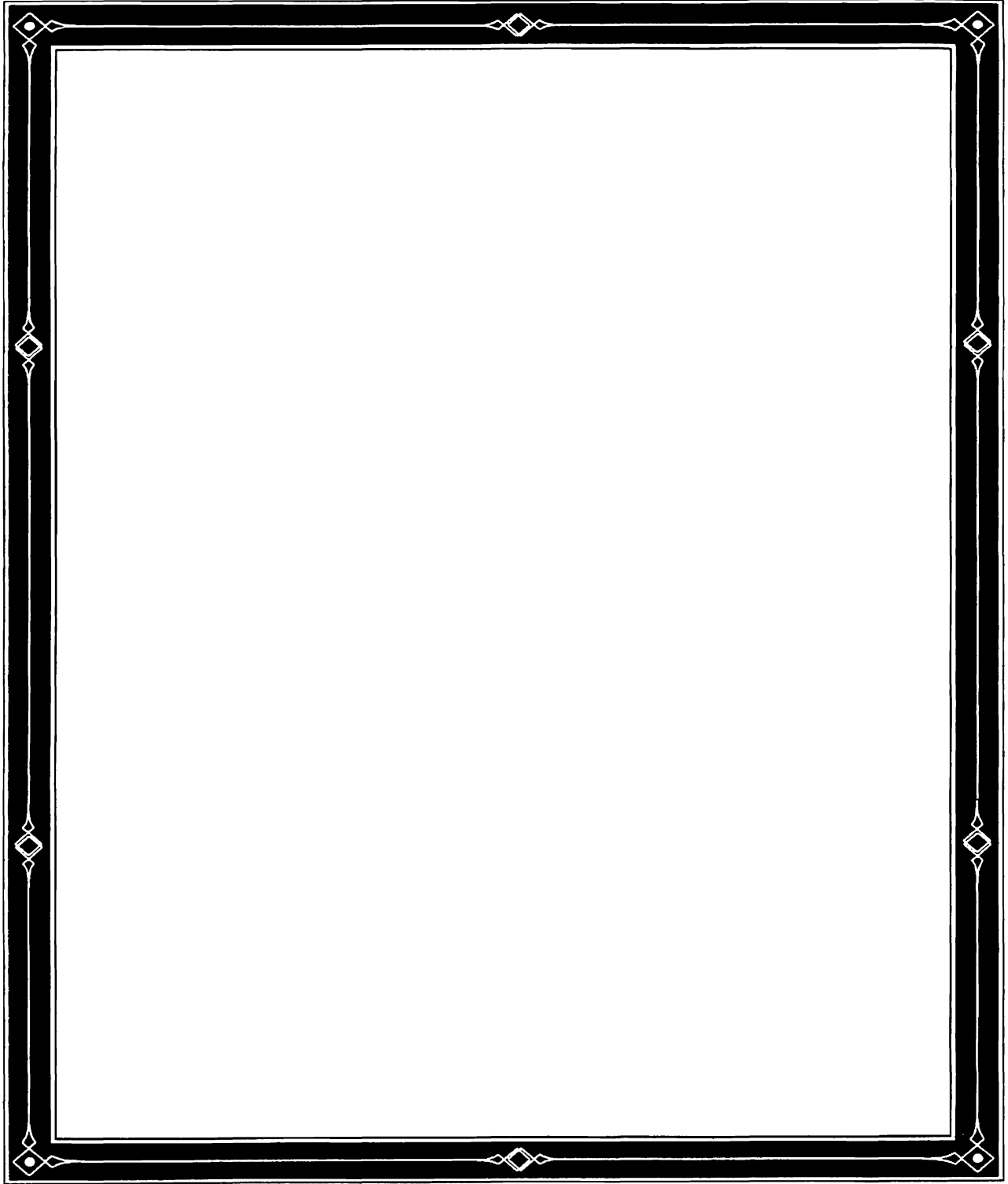


Unscramble the Words Below:

H A M U N N A

S U R G V I A





This is a picture of Hanuman flying over the ocean.

Drawn by: _____

Lesson Six

Hanuman rushed to show Lord Rama the jewel that Sita had given him. Rama quickly made plans to rescue her from the evil Ravana. He gathered the monkey soldiers together and marched toward the ocean. It was not an easy journey. They marched through dense forests, crossed swift rivers and climbed steep mountains. Finally, they arrived at the ocean shore.

“Gather rocks and boulders,” Rama told the monkeys. “We shall build a bridge to Lanka.”

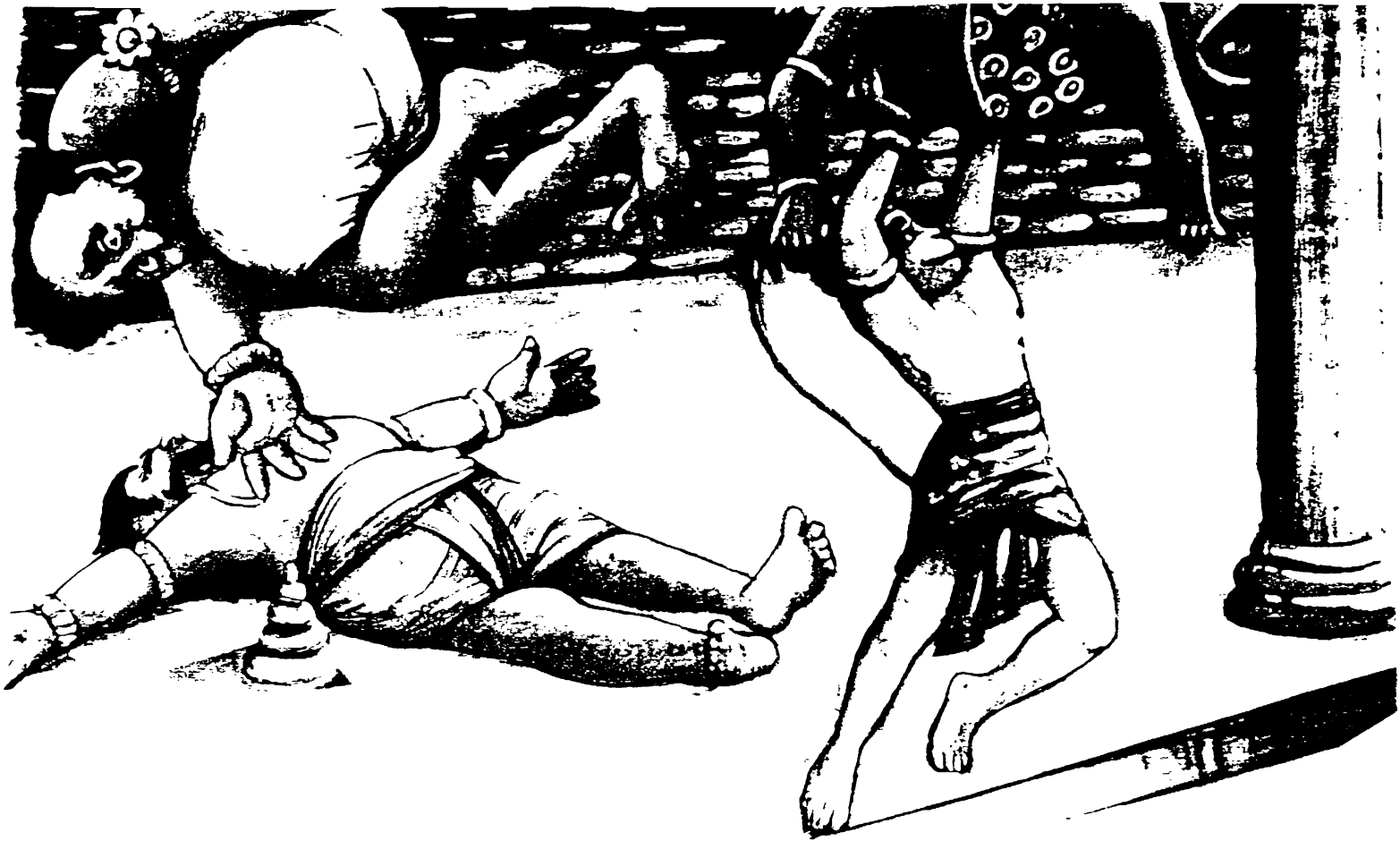
Everyone worked hard to build the bridge. The monkeys threw the heavy rocks into the ocean. Amazingly, the rocks and boulders floated on top of the water!



Finally, the bridge reached the shore of Lanka. Hanuman and the entire monkey army crossed the ocean.

“Victory to Rama!” the monkeys shouted.

Rama sent a messenger to Ravana ordering him to surrender. Ravana laughed and refused. He was sure that his mighty demon army could defeat the monkey soldiers. Rama had no choice. A fierce battle began between the monkeys and the demons.



Ravana was very angry to see the monkeys kill so many of his soldiers. He rushed forward to kill Rama. With one arrow, Rama shot the demon king who fell unconscious. Ravana quickly awoke and returned to his palace. He was disgraced and humiliated.



Ravana was outraged. Rushing again to the battlefield, Ravana killed thousands of monkey soldiers. Finally, he faced Rama.

“How dare you come here with your army of monkeys!” Ravana told Rama. “You are a king without a kingdom! I shall take your wife and kill you once and for all.”

“Ravana, you fool!” Rama said. “You stole my wife while I was gone. Now you must pay for what you did.”

Rama shot many arrows at Ravana, but none killed him. Rama shot one more arrow which entered the heart of Ravana. This was the end of Ravana! The most powerful of demons was now dead. The monkeys jumped up and down in joy.

Rama was reunited with His wife, Sita. They were so happy to see each other once again. They flew home to Ayodha in a golden airplane pulled by swans. All of the residents welcomed Rama, Sita and Laksmana.

“All glories to Lord Rama,” they shouted. “All glories to Rama.”





Preparations were made for Rama's coronation. Everyone cheered as He was crowned king. Lord Rama ruled for many years as the most noble king ever known to the world!

Check for Understanding

Circle the statements that are TRUE: 

1. Hanuman showed Rama the jewel given to him by Ravana.
2. Rama, Laksmana and the monkey soldiers traveled to the ocean shore.
3. When the monkeys threw rocks and boulders into the ocean they floated to form a bridge.
4. When Rama entered Lanka, Ravana immediately surrendered.
5. Rama and Sita were reunited and flew back to Ayodha.

Fill in the missing letters to form a sentence:

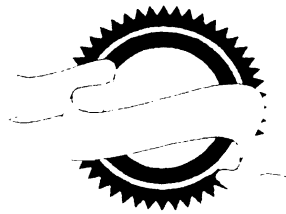


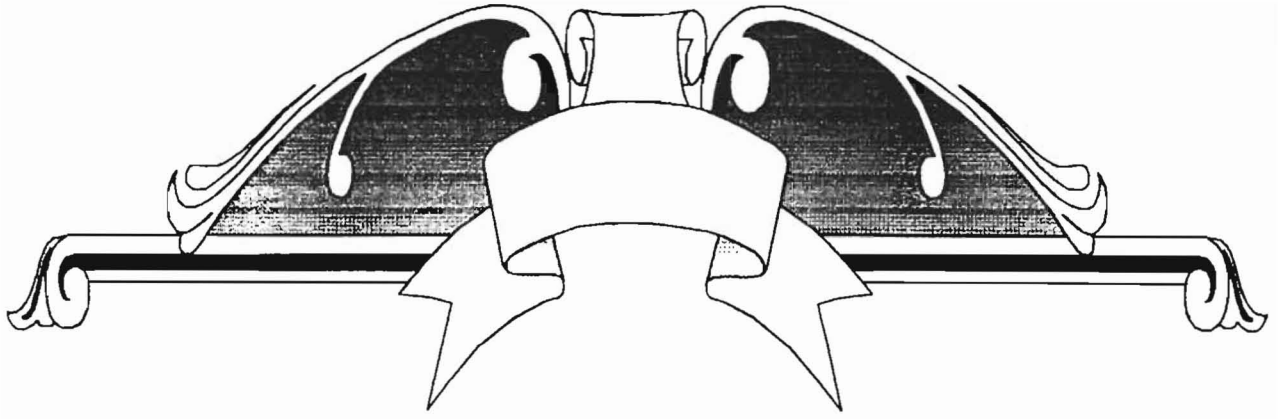
T H _ _ M _ N K _ Y

S O _ D I E _ S B U I _ T

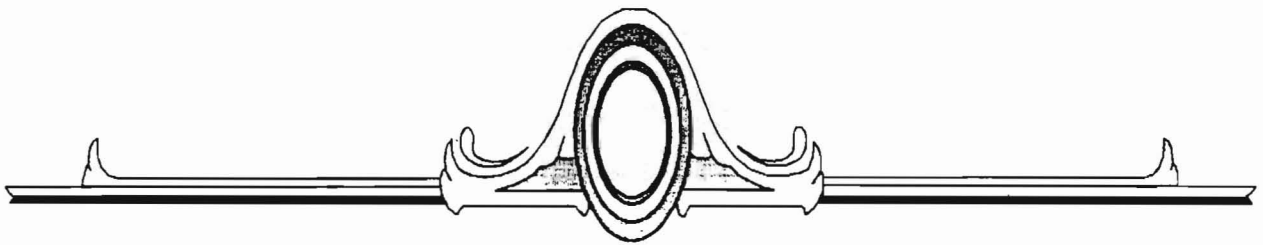
A B R _ D _ E F _ R

L _ R _ R _ M _ .





*All glories to
Lord Rama!*



During the reign of Lord Ramacandra the forests, the rivers, the hills and mountains, the states, the seven islands and the seven seas were all favorable in supplying the necessities of life for all living beings.

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, Canto 9, Chapter 10, Text 52)



When Lord Ramacandra, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, was the King of this world, all bodily and mental suffering, disease, old age, bereavement, lamentation, distress, fear and fatigue were completely absent. There was even no death for those who did not want it.

(Srimad-Bhagavatam, Canto 9, Chapter 10, Text 53)

The Ramayana

Compiled by ISKCON Philadelphia's Hare Krishna Sunday School Students:
Kirti Mahajan, Rajani Pattinson, & Smurti Govan

Players:

Narrator
Rama
Sita
Laksmana
Hanuman
Ravana
Jatayu
Golden Deer
Surpanaka
Monkey Soldiers
Demon Soldiers

Narrator:

Once, thousands of years ago, the earth was terrorized by powerful demon kings. The strongest was King Ravana, the leader of Lanka. Mother Earth, deeply distressed by the horrific acts of the demons, went to Lord Visnu seeking refuge. Lord Visnu then promised her He would be born on Earth as the first son of King Dasaratha, the ruler of Ayodhya. He would then rid the Earth of demons.

Thus, He appeared on Earth as Rama. He appeared with His expansions, Bharata, Laksmana, and Satrugha. Time passed and Rama grew to be a virtuous and handsome man who was well-loved by the residents of Ayodha. Dasaratha was becoming too old to rule the kingdom and decided to pass the rule to Rama. But, one of Dasaratha's queens, Kaikeyi, stopped him and ordered him to honor the two boons he had once promised her. One was to make her own son, Bharata, king. The other was to exile Rama to the forest for 14 years. Although grief-stricken, Dasaratha was forced to fulfill the two boons Kaikeyi desired. Soon, Rama, accompanied by his wife, Sita, and His brother Laksmana, left Ayodha to live in the forest.

Scene 1 -In The Forest (Trees, cottage, and Jatayu by a tree)

Rama:

Laksmana, take care. Demon, beware of the power of my invincible bow.

Jatayu:

My dear child, do not kill me, for I am an aged friend of your father. I'm just an old eagle, named Jatayu. Please allow me to help you in your stay in the forest. Perhaps I could protect Sita whenever you must leave her alone.

Rama:

Dear friend, I thank you for your offer and look forward to a long and lasting friendship with you. Come to the place we now call home. You can live in a tree nearby.

Jatayu:

Thank you, Rama. Thank you. **(Flaps wings and in "bird voice" says "Jai, Jai")**

Narrator:

Then one day, a she-demon approached the cottage. **(Surpanaka comes toward the forest to the cottage.)** She was Surpanaka, the sister of the evil, ten-headed demon, Ravana, King of Lanka. When she spotted Rama, her heart was immediately filled with desire. Although she was horribly ugly, she used her magical powers to assume the form of a beautiful maiden. She went before Rama, speaking to him in a sweet voice.

Surpanaka:

Oh, dearest one. Who are you with your strong limbs and handsome face? You have won my heart. Come with me, Surpanaka, and wander through the woods. You and I could be so happy together.

Rama:

Oh, fair maiden, I am Rama, Son of the great King Dasaratha. I thank you for your offer, but I must reject it, for I am already married. Look. There is my wife, Sita. My brother, Laksmana, however, is equally handsome and heroic and is living alone in the forest. I am sure he would make a more suitable

Narrator:

Rama pursued the deer into the forest. The cunning wizard, Maricha, imitated Rama's voice and called for help. **(Rama yells from backstage, "Sita, Laksmana, help me. Help me.")**

Thinking the voice to be her husband's, Sita pleaded with Laksmana.

Sita:

Laksmana, do you not hear the cry of your brother? Go immediately to help him. He is surely in great danger.

Laksmana:

Rama can defeat any man, demon or wild beast. Do not worry. This cry for help must be a trick of the demons.

Sita:

You do not care about Rama. You want him to die. You have served us all these years simply waiting for your chance to take me as your own.

Laksmana:

Such thoughts are cruel and unjust. Your words burn my heart like a red-hot fire. Very well. I will do as you say and go and search for my brother, thus disobeying his instructions. I fear greatly for your safety. Before I go, I will create a magical circle around the cottage. On no account must you step outside of it or let anyone in. It will be your safekeeping while I am gone. **(Laksmana forms a circle in the ground with his stick and leaves the stage as if going into the forest.)**

Narrator: (Ravana, with a saffron chaddar over his head and shoulders, slowly walks toward Sita.)

Thus creating a magical circle and going into the forest to search for Rama, Sita was now alone. This was the moment Ravana had been waiting for.

Disguised in the dress of a holy man, Ravana came before Sita. Sita welcomed him with respect and offered to get him some food and water.

While she was away, Ravana tried to enter the cottage, but could not do so because of the magical circle created by Laksmana. It appeared as though there was an invisible wall. When Sita returned, Ravana, pretending to be old

and weak, coaxed her to bring the refreshments to him. She crossed the circle. Now she was unprotected at the hands of the King of Demons.

Ravana:

My dear beautiful lady. Why do you live here alone in the forest full of man-eating demons and fierce beasts dressed in simple clothes and living like a pauper. You belong in a palace served by thousands of maid-servants who will adorn you with fine jewels. Do not stay with this wretched Rama. Come with me, Ravana. Come to my palace in Lanka where I will serve you. Come with me and be my bride.

Sita:

Oh, you cruel, wicked wretch. Be off with you before my Rama returns. If you harm me, He will destroy you and your whole demon race as well.

(Ravana grabs Sita's arm and pulls her away)

Sita:

Rama, please come and save me. Brother Laksmana, please forgive me for speaking so harshly. Please, come to my aid.

Narrator:

Jatayu, Rama's old eagle friend, heard Sita's cry and attacked the demon king. **(Fight between Jatayu and Ravana begins)** His sharp talons tore the flesh off of Ravana's back. The furious demon shot fierce arrows at Jatayu. Although the bird was badly wounded, Jatayu attacked Ravana again and again. He made the powerful demon fall onto the ground. This was too much for Ravana. With a terrible cry, he chopped off Jatayu's wings and talons. **(Ravana pretends to chop Jatayu's wings with his sword. Jatayu falls to the ground.)** Sita cried as she saw her old friend fall injured on the ground. Ravana turned to her, and by his magical power raised both himself and Sita into the air and flew once again, towards his palace in Lanka. **(Ravana and Sita go toward Lanka and off the stage.)**

Narrator:

After killing the deer and discovering it was Maricha, the magician, Rama rushed back to the cottage, meeting Laksmana along the way. He was very

match. Offer your hand to him.

Surpanaka:

Oh, how right you are! **(Moves toward Laksmana)** Laksmana, my hero. Come with me. I will marry you instead.

Laksmana:

No, it would not be proper. I would not be a fitting match, for I am just a servant of my brother, Rama. And you must surely be a princess. My brother is cheating you. Insist on him. He will soon forget his wife and prefer you instead.

Surpanaka:

It is that horrible creature, Sita, that stands between me and you. I will devour her in a second and then I will marry you by force. **(Makes demon sounds and attacks Sita. Laksmana cuts off her nose. Surpanaka runs away screaming.)**

Scene 2--Inside Ravana's palace. Ravana is on his throne.

Narrator:

Surpanaka rushed to seek the aid of her brother, Ravana. In the golden city of Lanka, stood Ravana's great, golden palace. Ravana was the king of the demons. He struck terror into the hearts of all living creatures. With his ten heads, large eyes and huge limbs, Ravana was frightening to the mightiest of men. His majestic body bore scars of many wounds received in battle. Seated on his golden throne and dressed in fine garments and costly jewels, he appeared as brilliant as the sun.

(Surpanaka comes running in and lifts her veil to show her nose to Ravana.)

Ravana:

My dear sister, who has cut off your nose and ears? Tell me and I will avenge you.

Surpanaka:

It was the two sons of Dasaratha, King of Kosala, who are wandering

fearlessly in our forest. They have not only dared to injure me, but have also slain our brothers, Khara and Dushana, and defeated their whole army. They are accompanied by the wife of Rama, a lovely creature, who is surely the most beautiful woman in the creation. She would make a perfect queen for you, dear brother. Avenge this insult to our family! These two princes must be destroyed!

Ravana:

Fear not, dear sister. I have a plan. I will seek the help of Maricha, the magician. I will destroy the princes of Ayodhya and carry off the woman as my bride. **(Laughs and walks off the stage.)**

Narrator:

Ravana had a golden chariot driven by mules which could fly in the sky. He used this airplane to fly to the den of Maricha who could assume any form at will. Maricha agreed to help Ravana with his wicked plans. They flew over great mountains and rivers until they reached the forest of Pancavati and Rama's cottage. The magician, Maricha, assumed the form of a golden deer. Sita was gathering flowers when she noticed the creature. She was spellbound by its wondrous beauty. **(Golden deer enters and dances around the forest. Sita, Rama and Laksmana are outside their cottage.)**

Sita:

Oh, Rama. Look at that beautiful deer. Please go and catch it for me. I would love to have it as my pet.

Laksmana:

Rama, beware of this animal. It is too beautiful to be true. It could be a magical trick, a creation of some wizard.

Rama:

Fear not, Laksmana. Sita shall have the deer. If this creature is a wizard's creation as you say, I will bring it down with my bow. Guard Sita while I am gone. Under no circumstances must you leave her alone in the forest. **(Rama follows deer off the stage.)**

angry to learn that Sita had been left alone. **(Rama and Laksmana enter the forest near the cottage)** Arriving at the cottage, his fears were confirmed. It was deserted.

Rama:

Laksmana! How could you leave Sita? I told you not to do so under any circumstance. I fear we have been the victims of an evil trick.

Laksmana:

I did not leave her unprotected. I created a magical circle around her to protect her. Oh, please understand my dear brother. It was my love for you and her harsh words that drove me away.

Rama:

Where is my Sita? Surely she has been attacked and killed by the demons. **(They run through the forest looking for her and come upon the dying Jatayu crying out in distress).**

Rama:

Jatayu, who has done this to you?

Jatayu:

It was the wicked demon, Ravana, King of Lanka. He flew South, taking Sita with him. She was screaming for your help. Do not worry, Rama. You will find her and be happy once again. Now, I beg your leave. Now, I will depart, Rama.

Narrator:

Rama and Laksmana wept as their dear friend gave up his life. They then traveled many days until they came across the kingdom of monkeys, led by Sugriva, who promised to help Rama. The chief minister was named Hanuman who promised to search for Sita. Rama was certain that Hanuman, who was a great and powerful warrior, would meet with success.

Rama:

You will find Sita for me, Hanuman. Here, take my ring. It will tell Sita that you are my messenger.

Hanuman:

I will not return until I find her, my Lord. Allegiance, forward!!! **(Monkey soldiers follow Hanuman to the ocean. Monkeys chant “Jai Rama, Jai Rama.”)**

Narrator:

Hanuman and the monkey soldiers journeyed far through forests, across rivers and over hills until they reached the southern seashore. But, how were they to cross the ocean to Ravana’s kingdom? Hanuman stepped forward. Before everyone’s startled eyes, the monkey warrior grew to an enormous size. **(Hanuman can now squat down on the floor and then slowly rise, holding his club straight in the air—giving the illusion that he has gotten taller.)** He was so tall that he was higher than a mountain. With a great leap, he flew into the air faster and faster until he reached the shore of Lanka. He landed on top of the hill. Turning himself into the tiniest of monkeys, he passed through the city gates. **(He can squat down again and then slowly rise)** Hanuman searched every house and garden for Sita and finally found her in a courtyard, under a tree. She appeared so sad, her face bathed with tears.

Hanuman:

Sita, wife of the great King Rama, I am your husband’s messenger, Hanuman. He is in great distress without you and has sent me to search for you.

Sita:

How do I know that you come from my Rama? You may have been sent by the demons to taunt me.

Hanuman:

I have brought Rama’s ring. **(Shows Sita the ring)**

Sita:

Indeed. This is Rama's ring! Thank you, dear friend. Take this jewel to Rama and tell him I wait, day and night, for his arrival here. **(Sita gives him a jewel)** Please accept this fruit also to refresh yourself. They grow on trees all over the garden.**(Sita offers Hanuman some cut fruit on a plate)**

Hanuman:

(Eats the fruit.) Mmmmm!!! Oh, it's delicious. Mmmmm!!! Heehaa!!! I could eat lots more. Hoooho hoooho!!!

Narrotor:

With these words the monkey swung from tree to tree eating all the fruit in site. **(Hanuman jumps around the garden)** He made so much noise that the guards awoke and soon a great battle started.**(Hanuman fights with guards)** Hanuman killed many of the guards. But then he was captured and taken before Ravana. The demon king was outraged.

Ravana:

You impudent monkey. I will teach you a lesson. Guards, set the monkey's tail on fire!!**(Gaurds pretend to set Hanuman's tail on fire. Hanuman crouches down. Hanuman runs around with his tail on fire and burns Lanka and jumps over ocean)**

Narrator:

Hanuman's tail was set on fire by the demon soldiers. But, Hanuman had a trick or two to play. He suddenly became so small that he loosened the ropes and soon escaped. Returning to his original size he danced from building to building swinging his big tail until the whole city was ablaze. Only the part where Sita sat was left untouched. Hanuman was very pleased with himself, although he felt very hot at his tail. **(Hanuman blows on the pretend fire on his tail)** The monkey warrior dived into the ocean to put out the fire and with a giant leap flew once again to other shore and returned to Rama. **(Jumps over the ocean)**

Hanuman:

Lord Rama, I have found Sita. The she-demons are tormenting her, but she is patiently awaiting your arrival. Look. Here is a jewel she gave me to give to you.

Rama:

Look, Laksmana! It is Sita's jewel. Come monkey soldiers. Let's march to the ocean shore to arrange to go to Lanka. **(Hanuman leads the monkey soldiers to Rama saying "Victory to Rama, Victory to Rama" and then soldiers say it after Hanuman. At the shore, monkey soldiers toss paper boulders into the "ocean" to form a bridge. Then they all cross the bridge)**

Narrator:

Rama sent a messenger to Ravana ordering him to surrender Sita and thus avoid war. **(One monkey goes to Ravana. Hands him a paper. Ravana shakes his head "NO!" and monkey returns to the other monkey soldiers.)** Ravana refused, believing the monkeys to be no fit match for his mighty demon army. There was no other course of action. The invasion of the golden city would begin.

Monkey Soldier:

Monkey soldiers forward! To war! To war! **(All monkeys follow Hanuman and say "To War! To War! Fight begins with monkeys and demon soldiers in Lanka. Hanuman and Ravana fight. Then Rama and Ravana face each other)**

Ravana:

How dare you come here with your army of monkeys! You. A king without a kingdom! **(Laughs)** I shall finish you now and take your wife once and for all.

Rama:

Ravana, you wretch! You are like a dog who steals food from the master's kitchen while he is away from home. You stole my wife when I was absent. From that day your life was doomed. **(Rama uses His bow and pretends to**

kills him. He falls to the ground. Monkeys jump up and down in joy saying “Jai Rama, Jai Rama”)

Narrator:

Rama was reunited with his beloved, Sita.(Sita enters and places a garland around Rama’s neck) She was overjoyed to see her Lord again. They flew home to Ayodha in an airplane made of flowers and pulled by swans. (Rama, Sita, Laksmana and Hanuman walk to the center of the stage and stand in their “traditional” positions. Hands in position, Hanuman kneeling etc.)

The beloved exiles had finally returned to their kingdom. Rama ruled for many years as the most just and noble king ever known to the world. Thus, his glories will be sung for ever more. (Someone chants Rama bhajan in microphone. All actors enter and stand next to Sita, Rama, Laksmana and Hanuman. Everyone bows together.)