

## **Kamba Ramayana – A Concise Reader**



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## INVOCATION:

Lord Tirumal, the beholder of the Universe  
He who creates, sustains and destroys it  
As a mere play – such a Lord Narayana  
To whom we surrender. (1)

## ADIKAVI:

The first poet of the world – Valmiki,  
Blessed by the celestial sage Narada  
Rendered the epic Ramayana to benefit human race  
The life story of Rama – the personification of Dharma (2)

## THE POET:

Kavi Kamban, the best among the Tamil poets  
Named by his pious parents for the Lord issued from Kamba -  
Lord Narashimha who saved the child Prahlada from demon Hiranyan,  
Lived in the fertile Chola kingdom of the ninth Century (3)

Taking the original epic as the ingredient, churning it in the nectar - Tamil  
Kamban composed the immortal Ramavatharam, to delight and uplift the people  
Inaugurated it to learned assembly seated at the feet of Sri Ranganatha  
Attained the title “Emperor among the poets” – Kavichakravarthi (4)

## LORD WHO SAVED THE ELEPHANT:

In the days of yore, Gajendra – the king of elephants  
Ruled the dense forests of the Pandya Kingdom  
Offering daily prayers and flower garland to the Lord  
Along with the retinue of his subject elephants (5)

One day, while bathing in the mighty river  
An ignorant crocodile caught hold of the elephant’s leg.  
Unable to free itself from the grip of the unkindly beast  
The wise elephant king meditated on the Primordial One! (6)

Lord Vishnu who resides in the Milky Ocean with Laxmi  
Filled with compassion for the bhaktha, flew seated on the eagle Garuda  
Slew the ignorance of the crocodile with His Charkra and  
Released the Yaksha from his beastly form and the Bhaktha from the pain (7)

## I. BALA KANDAM

### PROMISE TO PROTECT THE RIGHTEOUS:

Lord Tirumal – the very embodiment of Vedas  
Heading to the pleas of the devas and prayers of righteous humans  
Promised to destroy the ten-headed demon, Ravana of Lanka  
Himself incarnating as the son of Emperor Dasaratha of Ayodhya (1)

### BIRTH OF THE LORD:

Emperor Dasaratha ruled the ancient Earth with his three queens  
Kausalya, Sumatra and the enchanting beauty Kaikeki,  
Accompanied by his able ministers led by the shrewd Sumanthra;  
Citizens of Ayodhya were content in peace and prosperous  
Whose children offered gold as gift to Laxmi – the goddess of wealth (2)

Led by the Royal Priest Vasistha, Dasaratha performed the yagna for progeny  
Devas delivered the payasam that was consumed by the three queens  
Lord Tirumal incarnated as Rama to Kausalya, Bharatha born of Kaikeki  
Adishesha as Laxmana and Satrugna to Sumatra (3)

### EDUCATION:

Great Sage Vasistha, the royal preceptor of the Solar dynasty  
Imparted knowledge on all the four Vedas, archery and good citizenry  
To the four brothers who flourished like the nourished crops  
Immersed in the monsoon rains falling on the golden city, Ayodhya (4)

### EARLY EXPLOITS:

Sage Viswamithra, whose ascetic powers could create a rival Brahma and celestial worlds  
Appeared before the Emperor and his cabinet, and was seated in a pearl-studded throne  
The wise sage praised Dasaratha for his valor that restored Indra his heavenly abode  
Asked for the young Prince Rama to guard his planned yaga from the asuras (5)

Seeing the good fortune to befall on Rama,  
Vasistha advised Dasaratha to consent.  
Prince Rama and young Laxmana  
Who follows him as a shadow went with Viswamithra. (6)

The three majestically walked like the Trinity,  
Crossed the river Sarayu and reached the desert.  
Studious princes' were taught the mighty mantras,  
Bala and Adibala for physical strength by the sagacious (7)

Rama slew the rakshashi Tatakai - the enemy of the pious yogis and  
Who worn out the oasis to a desert by her evil deeds,  
With his unflinching thunderous arrow at the command of the sage  
As Laxmana guarded the holy Ashrama of the learned (8)

Pleased with the young Princes, the sage gave them  
Divine missiles and their operating mantras which  
Reached the brothers as good deeds reach a person in next birth  
From then on, the missiles rendered yeoman service to Rama. (9)

Walking further along, the three crossed the river Gomati and arrived at  
An enchanting grove, which Viswamithra explained to the brothers as  
The ancient abode of the all-knowing sage Kasyapa and his wife, Aditi  
To whom the tall blue-cued Tirumal was born as the dwarf Vamana. (10)

#### THE STORY OF MAHABALI:

Mahabali, the asura having conquered the Earth and heavens was performing a  
Great sacrifice gifting whatever was asked by whomever to attain Indra's crown.  
Meditating on the compassionate Lord Vishnu, Indra sought divine protection  
Vamana appeared before Mahabali's sacrifice as a young Brahmin. (11)

Pleased with the presence of the learned Brahmin, Mahabali said  
What can I do for you? O Brahmin! And added, I grant what is requested  
Land worth my three strides, asked the playful Lord disguised as the dwarf  
Realizing the Truth - Sukracharya, the preceptor of the asura intervened to stop him. (12)

Chastising his teacher for obstructing him from performing a charitable act  
Mahabali poured sacred water on Vamana's hands and was astonished to  
See the dwarf grew and grew to measure the Earth and heavens by his two steps  
Surrendering to the Lord Tirumal, the asura offered his head for the third stride. (13)

Lord Tirumal gave the thus attained heavens back to Indra and  
Sanctified the land by meditating in the grove which the sage  
Choose as the place to do yoga to break from the cycle of births  
Rama and Laxmana stood guard to protect the hermitage. (13)

Spewing venom, two raksashas appeared on the sky to disturb  
Taking the preceptor's thought as command the young Rama  
Dispatched arrows that sent Subahu to the abode of death and  
Pushed Marica, the other son of Tatakai into the sea (14)

#### TURNING STONE INTO A BEAUTIFUL LADY:

Reaching the land of Mithila, full of fragrant flowers and fruits  
Nourished by the river Sonai flowing like the river Kaveri of Chola Nadu  
The dust from Rama's feet touched a black stone lying along the way  
Beautiful Lady Ahalya emerged, as someone relieved of illusion. (15)

Sage Gauthama had once cursed his wife Ahalya for knowingly engaging with  
Devendra, who himself was transformed to a shameful form with thousand eyes.  
Regaining her former form and purified, Ahalya was united with Gautama  
I saw the glory of your mighty hands then, now I see your feet's power! -  
Extolled the purposeful Sage Viswamithra (16)

### CITY OF MITHILA AND ITS CITIZENS:

Trinity like three entered the well-guarded city, Mithila that  
Seemed to announce its proud heritage as the birth place of  
Laxmi, as the daughter of the king of Mithila – Karma yogi Janaka  
Roads in the city were studded with gems, glittering as stars in the clear night sky. (17)

The markets of Mithila were filled with precious gems, pearls and other commodities  
Like the river Kaveri brimming with water between its two banks.  
In Mithila, husbands and wives loved each other and shared life as equal partners  
Women with tender fingers and sharp nails played melodiously on the yázh. (18)

### MARRIAGE OF RAMA AND SITA:

Rama looked up and gazed at the transcending beauty standing on  
The balcony of the palace, Sita – the royal daughter born of Earth  
Their eyes interlocked for a second, each trying to swallow the other.  
Sita’s eyes glanced at Rama’s mighty shoulders. (19)

Welcomed by the King Janaka, the three entered the royal assembly.  
Sage Viswamithra introduced the two brothers to the king as the princes of Ayodhya.  
Emperor Dasaratha belongs to the Solar dynasty that includes the illustrious Bhageerata  
Who brought to Earth the celestial river Ganga that flows from the matted locks of Lord Siva. (20)

After listening to the Sage, Janaka explained the condition he has laid down  
For a suitor for his daughter, that has been in vain despite tries by many a princes’  
To string the mountain like bow of the Lord Siva – that was brought to the hall  
By sixty-thousand warriors with rock like shoulders (21)

Understanding the mind of the teacher, Rama looked at the mighty bow  
Rama rose like a raging fire emerging from the yoga pit being poured by ghee  
He held it as though it were a garland of flowers suitable for the princess, Sita  
In the blink of an eye, Rama broke the bow trying to string its ends. (22)

The thunderous sound of the broken bow of Lord Siva could be heard by the celestials  
Maid Neelamalai ran to Sita to inform of Rama’s deed; Mithila’s citizens were overjoyed;  
Janaka sent a messenger with an invitation to Emperor Dasaratha of Ayodhya - who with his  
Wives and ministers arrived with an enormous army of chariots, cavalry, elephants and infantry (23)

The welcoming army of king Janaka along with the entering army of Ayodhya  
Looked like a mighty river merging into the endless sea with huge waves.  
Princes Bharata and Satrugna followed Sage Vasistha just as Rama and Laxmana  
Accompanied the Sage Viswamithra into the city of Mithila (24)

Swift emissaries were sent to the kings in all parts of the world about the news of the marriage  
The kings of the kingdoms of Ganga, Kongu, Kalinga, Kulinga, Singala, Chera, Chola and Pandya,  
Mahratta, Anga, Vanga, Magada, Malava, Sonakesvar, Yadava, Saka, Telungu, Kannada,  
China, Mlecha, Turkey and other kings assembled in the great hall of Mithila (25)

On that auspicious day, blessed by the two great sages, assembled kings and the citizens,  
Rama was married to Sita, who followed him like the body following the soul.  
Janaka's other daughter and that of his brother – Oormilai, Mandavi and Sritikeerti married  
Dasaratha's other sons Laxmana, Bharata and Satrugna (26)

Enjoying worldly bliss, Rama and Sita along with the other couples  
Spent many a days in the palaces of Mithila to the delight of its citizens  
Sage Viswamithra blessed the couples and left for the snowy mountains of Himalayas  
Emperor Dasaratha prepared his army and retinue for the journey back to Ayodhya (27)

#### PARASURAMA AVATARA:

Happily marching Royal procession was suddenly halted along its way  
By the sworn enemy of kings – the Parasurama with the axe  
Who looked like the rough sea bent on tossing up the ships and  
Tremble even the mightiest of elephants with fear (28)

Sage Jamadakni who was slain by a cruel king is the father of  
Parasurama, the slayer of kings ever since and he has gifted all  
The Kingdoms thus gained to the great Sage Kasyapa, now  
Confronted the Emperor Dasaratha's first prince – Rama (29)

Seeing the furious Parasurama looking for a fight with Rama  
Dasaratha fainted in fear for his son's life; Parasurama accused  
Rama of bending an already cracked bow of Lord Siva and challenged  
The Prince of Ayodhya to bend the mighty bow of Lord Vishnu (30)

Smiling at the elder Parasurama, another incarnation of Lord Vishnu  
Rama took the bow, bent it and pulled the strings to his shoulders and  
Thus frightened the enemy of kings with the long matted locks and  
Asked for the destination for his arrow (31)

Let your arrow take away all the benefits of my penance thus far  
The subdued Parasurama pleaded to the Prince of Ayodhya  
Rama's arrow went around Parasurama with lightning speed and  
Returned to his quiver as his darts always do (32)

O processor of the mightiest missiles! – Parasurama praised Rama  
As the incarnation of virtues whose divine feet all longs to attain  
Blessed the son of Jamadakni – O Rama, you will achieve the  
Purpose of your incarnation on the Earth and took leave of him (33)

At the exit of Parasurama, Emperor Dasaratha regained his senses  
With pride he got hold of Prince Rama and praised him as the Supreme Lord  
Who can provide all the pleasures in this birth and eternal salvation afterward  
The rejuvenated Royal Army followed the Prince back to the city of Ayodhya (34)

## II. AYODHYA KANDAM

### EMPEROR DASARATHA CONFERS WITH HIS MINISTERS:

Blessed by the people of Ayodhya, the newly wed Prince Rama and Sita  
Lived happily for the next twelve years under the just rule of the King  
One day, the ruler of the world contemplated on his successor and his yearning  
To leave the Royal duties and do penance in the forests for liberation (1)

Emperor Dasaratha summoned his great council of ministers  
Who were all-wise just as the preceptor of the celestials, Brahaspathi  
Sage Vasistha led the noble council who always advised the king  
Nothing but wisdom born of knowledge and fearlessness (2)

Having conquered my enemies in the terrestrial, celestial and nether worlds including  
The fearsome asura Campara with the help of dainty footed Kaikeyi as my charioteer  
I wish to renounce the Crown and marry Goddess Earth to Prince Rama  
To prepare him for glory! - Announced the elderly Emperor Dasaratha (3)

The council of ministers felt overjoyed at the pronouncement of the King  
To crown Prince Rama as the king of the state for the sake of doing penance  
And join the illustrious ancestors of the Solar Dynasty by handing over the rule  
To the husband of Sita – The Prince of Ayodhya who defeated Parasurama (4)

Sumantira, the minister of state affairs was send in a golden chariot to fetch Prince Rama  
To meet the Emperor and his council of ministers to prepare him for ascending  
The Royal Throne and discharge his duties to the people similar to Mother Earth  
Who supports her subjects with her bounty and patience (5)

As if to assess Rama's capabilities to rule the world, Emperor Dasaratha tightly  
Embraced the Prince of Ayodhya, the processor of mountain like shoulders  
O descendent of Bhageeratha, who brought the River Ganga to Earth from heavens  
To emancipate the ancestors of the Solar Dynasty, the king thus addressed Rama (6)

I and the council of ministers have decided to proclaim you as the King  
Do not think of this as a burden but as a duty to protect *dharma* – said Dasaratha  
Rama, the very embodiment of righteousness who was neither after power nor averse  
To it, saluted his father and his ministers and agreed to their bidding (7)

Pleased at Rama's consent to be the king, Dasaratha tasked Sage Vasistha  
To prepare for the Royal Coronation of the Prince of Ayodhya and sent out  
Invitations etched out in gold with the royal seal of the big eagle, Garuda  
To all the kings and noble sages in every direction of his Empire (8)

Akin to those intoxicated by sweet wine, the kings of the Empire  
Assembled at Dasaratha's palace and approved of his decision  
And extolled how every citizen of the empire loved Rama's excellent qualities -  
Charity, Dharma, Character, Truthfulness and worshipping noble people (9)

### MANTARAI'S MACHINATIONS:

Dasaratha conferred with expert astrologers for fixing a date  
For Rams's coronation and was pleased to learn that the next  
Day itself was an auspicious date for such an exceptional event  
Mother Kausalya came to know this and felt immense happiness (10)

Lord Vishnu who had borne the worlds from His immense belly was  
Prayed by Kausalya to whom the very Lord has been born as Rama  
Preparing the prince for coronation, Sage Vasistha advised him to never give up  
The three virtues – Righteousness, Sincerity and Compassion (11)

City of Ayodhya was full of color and display of riches, beauty and pleasures  
Citizens of the city sang and danced making Devas who had come to witness the  
Coronation of Rama, wonder if they have not yet left their heavenly abodes  
Yet one hunch-backed old lady Mantarai was furious (12)

Mantarai who was a maid of Queen Kaikeyi told the news to her and  
Lamented that her welfare would be in peril if Prince Rama became the King  
Kaikeyi's face brightened as the full moon and wondered what peril would be with  
Kausalya having a son as Bharatha and she having a son as Rama (13)

Spewing venomous words just as the primordial halahala poison that was drunk by  
Lord Siva to save the celestials from annihilation, Mantarai poisoned Kaikeyi's pure mind  
Bharatha's assets – youth, education, strength and skillful archery and handsome features  
Stand to get wasted if he is not made the King, the old lady uttered to Kaikeyi (14)

### KAIKEYI'S TWO BOONS:

Thanking Mantarai, the hunch-backed Kooni, Kaikeyi made a mess of her palace  
The Emperor entered her palace at midnight and was shocked by the disorderly scene  
Kaikeyi ignoring the Emperor's pleasant words, reminded him of the two boons given  
By him when she helped him defeat the asura Campara (15)

Descendents of the Solar Dynasty do not go back on their word and I stand ready  
To honor your two boons, replied the Emperor Dhasaratha unaware of her intensions  
My son Bharatha is to be crowned as the King of the Empire and Rama is to be banished  
To the deep forests for the next fourteen years – Kaikeyi commanded her boons (16)

Dasaratha now saw that the very dharma he has sworn to uphold is dancing as the Yama,  
The lord of death in the form of Kaikeyi but pleaded with her at least not to banish Rama  
Unable to bear the indifference of Kaikeyi to the Emperor's pleas, even the cool night  
Disappeared promptly as if ashamed to be a witness to it! (17)

Kaikeyi summoned the minister Sumantira and asked him to fetch Rama immediately  
The Emperor wishes to tell you something and I shall tell it if you agree to obey them  
Kaikeyi told Rama whose face became radiant as the Sun once he heard the two commands  
Prostrating at the feet of his step-mother Rama proceeded to his mother's palace (18)



## LEAVING THE CITY:

Mother Kausalya was surprised to see her son come alone without attendants  
Rama told her, “Your son Bharatha is to be crowned per the Emperor’s wishes”  
She responded that it is unusual to have the second son crowned but advised, “Rama,  
Give the kingdom to your brother Bharatha and live long cooperating with him” (19)

Kausalya went to Kaikeyi’s palace by foot to request the Emperor  
Not to send Rama to the forests but found the King of kings unconscious  
Sage Vasistha entered the palace hearing the commotion and vainly tried to get  
Kaikeyi withdraw her unjust boons obtained from the Emperor (20)

Rama went to Sita’s palace and told her of his father’s two commands  
And asked her to stay in the palace and take care of his mothers;  
Sita got infuriated by Rama’s harsh words not because of his desire  
To fulfill his father’s wishes but his intention to leave her behind in Ayodhya (21)

Sita insisted that an Ayodhya without him would be a scorching desert to her  
More than the Sun during the *pralaya* that is destined to dry up Mother Earth  
Rama agreed to let Sita accompany him and said he was pleased she chose to  
Be with him in spite of the difficulties that lay ahead in the forest (22)

Laxmana was full of anger on hearing the news of Rama’s banishment by the King  
Beloved Brother! The drying up of water in a river is not its fault just as my predicament  
Is not the fault of the King and Kaikeyi, Rama reasoned with his younger brother Laxmana  
Wise Mother Sumitra advised Laxmana to accompany both Rama and Sita as a son (23)

Rama who had crossed the ocean of southern language Tamil and the cultural  
Limits of the northern language Sanskrit, pacified Laxmana and  
Embraced his brother that was indeed like Lord Tirumal embracing the  
Lord Siva, who is none but a part of Lord Tirumal (24)

Rama and Laxmana dressed in ascetic garb accompanied by Sita  
Left the city of Ayodhya in a fast chariot driven by Sumantira  
Citizens of the city followed their beloved Prince and the lifeless  
City resembled exactly like Dasaratha who was about to die (25)

Reaching the edge of the city by night followed by the citizens  
Rama camped near a fragrant grove but by midnight asked Sumantira  
To drive back to the city of Ayodhya alone so that in the morning the citizens  
Can follow the tracks of the chariot thinking Rama went back to Ayodhya (26)

After witnessing the departure of Sumantira, Rama himself left the place  
Accompanied only by Sita’s chastity, his impartiality, limitless compassion  
Great knowledge and dharma, unfailing bow and arrows along with Laxmana  
Seeing neither Rama nor Sumantira, citizens followed the tracks to Ayodhya (27)

### MOTHER GANGA:

Handsome Rama of immortal grandeur whose dark-clouded complexion  
Possessed such radiance that can absorb even the light from the hot Sun,  
Walked along with pious Sita of slender waist and ever vigilant Laxmana  
Arrived at the banks of River Ganga crossing the fertile land of Kosala (28)

River Ganga created by Lord Brahma when he washed the divine feet of Lord Trivikrama,  
Another incarnation of Lord Vishnu took the form of a lady and bowed to Rama who along  
With his brother and wife bathed in the pure waters of Ganga thus absolving all the sins of her  
Accumulated by eliminating the sins of countless people who bathed in the river (29)

Great sages constantly meditating on the Supreme to attain absolute nirvana who have  
Taken residence on the banks of the River Ganga of pure waters greeted the three  
Lord Tirumal who gave the immortal nectar to the celestials now as Rama accepted  
The leaves and fruits offered by the noble seers with great pleasure (30)

### MEETING TRIBAL LEADER GUHAN:

Tribal leader Guhan, who counted a thousand boats as his possession  
And a master of navigating the mighty river Ganga of great depth,  
Saluted Laxmana and informed him that he has come to pay obeisance to Rama  
Rama embraced the tribal leader Guhan who is devoid of duplicity and full of love (31)

Guhan the commander of five hundred thousand hunters and fishermen  
Offered his place in Sringeram village as a suitable stay for the three  
Pleased by the affection of Guhan, Rama said, "Today onwards we are five brothers"  
Urged by Rama, Guhan helped them cross the River Ganga in his boat (32)

### ENTERING THE FORESTS:

Along with the beautiful Sita and his younger brother Laxmana  
Rama walked into the dense forest full of tall trees and wild animals  
Playfully crossing the portion of the forest filled with asoka flowers  
Rama sighted the Chitrakoota mountain, the abode of great sages (33)

Eminent Sage Bharadwaj full of abundant love realized the reward for his penance  
In the form of approaching Rama, Sita and Laxmana – Bharadwaj on whose tongue  
Vedas danced and a personification of virtuous life greeted the three into his hermitage  
On the advice of the Sage, the three walked ten kadam, hundred miles into the forest (34)

Far from the fertile land of Kosala and the confluence of the three rivers -  
Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, they walked passed hastily the agonizing desert  
Came to the heart of the Chitrakoota mountain full of tall gold like sandalwood trees  
Rama explained in detail the exquisite beauty of the forest to Laxmana and Sita (35)

Laxmana built a cottage using bamboo sticks and covered by teak trees  
Omnipresent Rama accompanied by golden-colored Sita entered the cottage  
Sita's soft feet traversed the harsh forests and Laxmana's dexterous hands  
Have shaped this beautiful cottage, marveled Rama with gratitude (36)

### DASARATHA CREMATED:

Unable to bear the separation of his beloved Rama  
Dasaratha breathed his last, with his three wives besides him  
Kausalya lamented that Rama had become a part to her King's death  
Sumantira informed the royal sage Vasistha of the demise of the Emperor (37)

Sage Vasistha summoned the royal council and upon approval of the ministers  
Asked the attendants to embalm the body of the deceased Emperor in special oil  
Royal order to bring back Prince Bharatha who was visiting his grandfather, the  
King of Kekaya kingdom was written on a palm leaf and given to messengers (38)

Trumpeting the death of the Emperor to the citizens of Ayodhya and the kings  
Under his jurisdiction, the royal council decided to wait for the arrival of Bharatha  
Traveling day and night in fast horses, the messengers reached the gates of Kekaya  
And presented the royal decree asking for Bharatha's immediate return to Ayodhya (39)

Prince Bharatha accompanied by his constant companion, younger brother Satrugna  
Left the Kekaya kingdom after accepting a vast amount of gift from his grandfather  
Still unaware of the death of their father, the descendant of the Solar dynasty, the brothers  
Followed by a vast army of soldiers, elephants and attendants reached Ayodhya (40)

Ayodhya – the invincible capitol city of the Kosala Empire resembled a ghost city  
Markets normally filled with merchants and traders from vast distances looked deserted  
Citizens of Ayodhya were sad, and it looked as if Goddess Laxmi had left her abode  
Puzzled by the strange sightings on the way, Bharatha reached the Palace (41)

Paying obeisance to his mother Kaikeyi, Bharatha enquired about the welfare of his father  
Kaikeyi coldly told him that she had asked the Emperor of two boons owed to her and  
Distraught by the separation of Rama's departure to the forests, Dasaratha had left for  
The Heavens and the Earth is now Bharatha's to rule (42)

Like a tall tree struck by a lightning, Prince Bharatha fell on the ground in agony  
What have you done, mother? Yelled the pure minded Bharatha and felt like being in hell  
Bharatha ran to Mother Kousalya's chamber, fell at her feet and cried of his innocence  
Child! I feel like Rama has returned from the forest, Kausalya affectionately said (43)

Learned Brahmins recited the four Vedas as the embalmed body of Dasaratha was placed  
In a decorated chariot and taken to the banks of the Sarayu river for cremation of the body  
Vasistha with the help of the younger brother Satrugna performed the King's last rites  
Since the Emperor had disowned Bharatha in his anger at Kaikeyi (44)

### BHARATHA'S RESOLVE:

Noble Bharatha whose fame shines like the full moon on a dark night  
Steadfastly refused the advice of the royal council to assume the throne  
And resolved to bring back Prince Rama, Sita and Laxmana to Ayodhya  
To uphold the ancient tradition of making the eldest son as the King (45)

Thunderous drums proclaimed the intensions of Bharatha to bring back Rama  
Great city of Ayodhya's residents steeped in agony now rose in ecstatic roar  
Akin to the power of the immortal nectar to bring back the lives of the dead!  
Assembled kings and ministers blessed the best among the princes - Bharatha (46)

Bharatha's vast army rose like the swelling seven seas during the *pralaya*  
Decorated elephants, chariots and horses with flags of the kingdom filled the land  
Bharatha led the great procession towards the limits of Kosala kingdom followed  
By the citizens of Ayodhya eager to bring back Prince Rama (47)

#### CROSSING THE GANGA:

Army of Bharatha that resembled the vast seas filled with catamarans crossed  
The plains of Kosala and reached the banks of river Ganga – Guhann noticed  
The vast army of Bharatha and became furious thinking that Bharatha is pursuing  
Rama even in the forest not yet satisfied with attaining the kingdom (48)

As Guhann was assembling his tribal huntsmen and fishermen to oppose the  
Giant army of Bharatha unafraid of its superiority out of his affection to Rama  
Sumantira explained to Bharatha of Guhann's pure love for Rama – Bharatha  
Approached Guhann alone clad in bark just as Rama had left Ayodhya (49)

Guhann was pleasantly shocked to see Bharatha in such a state and fell at his feet  
Realizing the sorrow of Bharatha and his resolve to bring back Rama, Guhann  
Exclaimed, Can a thousand Rama equal the great Bharatha? – Guhann's army of boats  
Transported the vast Kosala army across the flowing river Ganga (50)

The Queens of the Emperor Dasaratha were introduced by Bharatha to Guhann  
Who paid his respects to all the three women with folded hands – The Queens  
Were seated in separate palanquins on reaching the southern shore of river Ganga  
Thanking the tribal leader Guhann, Bharatha and his vast entourage moved on (51)

#### MEETING SAGE BHARDWAJ AND ARRIVING AT CHITRAKOOTA:

Marching further along, Bharatha and his large army reached the hermitage of  
Sage Bharadwaj and the army was treated to a celestial feast by the sage's yogic powers  
Elephants consumed balls of food mixed with paddy, while horses grazed on grass  
Bharatha ate only the roots and vegetables, rested on the ground (52)

Refreshed and well-fed the army of Bharatha passed through hash desert and  
Arrived at Chitrakoota mountain range where the commotion of the moving army  
Alerted the ever vigilant Laxmana and he became incensed at Bharatha's army  
Pursuing Prince Rama even in the forest and informed Rama and Sita (53)

Tranquil Rama laughed at Laxmana's blistering talk of annihilating Bharatha's army  
And said, "Laxmana, your prowess can frighten the entire world and heavens  
And none can deny it" but asked him to look carefully at the approaching army  
Tears fell from Laxmana's eyes on seeing the agony on the face of ascetic Bharatha (54)

On seeing the elder brother and prince of Ayodhya, Bharatha approached  
The three standing outside the beautiful hut and fell at Prince Rama's feet  
"O brother, you have discarded the dharma of kings and that of the eldest,  
Please accept our invitation and rule the empire", said noble Bharatha (55)

Unable to bear the sight of his elder brother in ascetic attire  
Bharatha fell to the ground unconscious – Prince Rama  
Revived the younger brother and embraced him just as the  
Ultimate Supreme Being embraces gracefulness and dharma (56)

After paying obeisance to his mothers, Rama enquired Bharatha,  
"O noble brother, Is our father, the ruler of the world doing well?"  
Bharatha replied to his brother that the Emperor after establishing  
The truthfulness of his words has gone to the Heavens (57)

Like a burning spear piercing the heart, Rama felt terrible pain  
On hearing the news of his father's demise and grieved aloud  
Sage Vasistha counseled Rama that none can escape the dragnet  
Of Yama and even the five elements will be destroyed in time (58)

Along with Sage Vasistha, Rama went to the banks of Ganga  
And performed the rites for his father, and chanted sacred Hymns  
Sita and Laxmana were distraught on hearing the death of the Emperor  
Sumitra, Kaikeyi and Kausila embraced the daughter of Janaka (59)

Next morning, the entire Royal council of Ayodhya and its citizens  
Pleaded with Rama to return to Ayodhya and uphold his dharma  
Rama was firm in his determination to fulfill his father's words  
Purposeful Devas were afraid that Bharatha may not relent (60)

#### CORONATION OF THE DIVINE SANDALS:

"It is the duty of Rama to fulfill his father's words and go to the forests,  
Bharatha! Rule the kingdom for the fourteen years till his return" thus  
Spoke a voice from heavens – that of Devas afraid if Rama returns  
To Ayodhya there would be none to destroy the evil Rakshasas (61)

Holding the hands of the noble Bharatha, Rama asked him to abide by the  
Decree of the Devas and rule the kingdom upholding dharma - "O brother!  
I accept this burden only at your command but I swear in your name that if you  
Do not return at the expiry of the term, I will immolate myself" Bharatha vowed (62)

Bharatha appealed to his brother to give his *padukas* – the wooden sandals  
So as to rule the kingdom for the fourteen years in his name – Bharatha,  
Placed the divine sandals of Rama, the very abode of righteousness that is capable  
Of annihilating everyone's sins on his head and proceeded towards Ayodhya (63)

Crossing the River Ganga with the divine *padukas* in his head, Bharatha  
Followed by the entourage reached the village Nandi near Ayodhya City  
Coronation of the divine sandals of Rama was performed and Bharatha ruled  
Kosala Kingdom as a keeper of dharma till his brother's return to Ayodhya (64)

### III. ARANYA KANDAM

#### BLESSINGS OF SAGE ATRI AND HIS WIFE ANASUYA:

Having appointed his brother, the noble Bharatha as the keeper of the World  
Till his return to Ayodhya after fulfilling his exile to the forests, Rama  
Accompanied by his wife and brother moved further south of Chitrakoota  
To spend the time in the forests by being able to stay among the wise sages (1)

Sita, the very incarnation of Laxmi, the beautiful lady with pearly teeth  
And Rama and Laxmana holding the bows in their long slender hands  
Walked towards an enchanting grove full of ripe fruits and medicinal herbs  
Surrounding the hermitage of Sage Atri and his wife Anasuya (2)

Paying obeisance to the Sage and his wife who were embodiment of the goodness  
In human nature born of penance, the three were blessed by the delighted couple  
Anasuya in affection gave princess Sita splendid clothes and jewels which she wore and  
In the company of the princes dressed in ascetic garbs left for Dandaka forests (3)

#### KILLING OF VIRADHA AND HIS LIBERATION:

A ferocious demon, Viradha with a mountain like body and red colored hair  
Who had the strength of a hundred and twenty-five thousand elephants, due to  
A boon obtained from Lord Brahma appeared before the three and in a flash  
Caught hold of the swan-like Sita and rose in the sky stunning the princes (4)

Rama yelled at the Rakshasa, "Where are you running, you deceitful fellow?"  
I cannot be killed because of the boons of Brahma, so leave this lady with me and  
I shall spare your young lives, the deluded demon responded in anger to the prince  
Rama twanged his bow and sent an arrow of immense power that shook the worlds (5)

Struck by the thunderbolt like arrow of Prince Rama, the demon placed Sita  
On the ground who looked like a parrot caught in the mouth of a large cat and  
Waved his trident which resembled a missile from a fiery submarine at Rama  
Realizing that he cannot be killed, the princes tried to cut off his arms (6)

Seizing the opportunity, the rakshasa held the two princes in his shoulders and  
Sprung up in the sky, who resembled the King of Eagles, Garuda, whose wings  
Are the dwelling place of dharma, flying with Balarama and Krishna seated on them  
Viradha's hands were severed by the princes and Rama kicked the demon with his feet (7)

Enlightened by the touch of the feet of Rama, Viradha transformed into a celestial and  
Extolled Rama as none other than Lord Tirumal, whose feet are praised by the Vedas  
Incomparable Lord! Are you not the One who saved the great elephant Gajendra who  
Prayed for the Primordial One to free him from the hold of the crocodile? – Viradha said (8)

Tumburu, a celestial from the worlds of Kubera, I am and had become a rakshasa  
Due to a curse by him after losing my senses in lust with Rambha, the celestial dancer  
Touch of your Sacred Feet has now freed me from the delusion and it is the only way  
To liberate oneself from the endless cycle of births, the liberated Viradha praised Rama (9)

### SAGE SARABHANGA ASCENDS TO VISHNU'S ABODE:

Walking further along, the three went deep inside the Dandaka forests  
Full of red trees and green vegetation that was the habitat of Vedic sages  
Wielding the *Vajrayudam*, the thunderbolt that had not damaged even at the  
Tip after being hurled at the mighty Ravana of Lanka, Devendra arrived (10)

Devendra, the Lord the Worlds to whom all the crowns belong with the  
Exception of the Trinity of Gods – Brahma, Vishnu and Siva, entered the  
Hermitage of Sage Sarabhanga at the command of Lord Brahma to invite  
The Sage to enjoy the fruits of his immense penance and good deeds (11)

O Lord of the Celestials, I do not desire to attain the Heavens that  
Are indeed perishable at the end of the yugas, the destruction of Universe  
But I propose to attain the adobe of the Great Vishnu, which transcends Time  
Celestial King! That is my desire, thus addressed the wise Sage Sarabhanga (12)

Rama, Laxmana and Sita arriving at the Sage's hermitage saw the white elephant  
Of Devendra standing outside the place and leaving the two, Rama entered inside  
Rama! You are the sparkle that pervades all objects yet that is not part of them  
O remover of evil! Protector of righteous! Accept my obeisance – Praised Devendra (13)

Believing that great events are yet to take place, Devendra took leave of the Sage  
Rama, the embodiment of infinite knowledge, prostrated at the feet of the Sage  
Embracing the Prince of Ayodhya, Sage Sarabhanga welcomed the three to his hut  
Entering fire, I seek salvation! The possessor of thousands of *yagas* addressed Rama (14)

Master of the inscrutable Vedas, the noble Sage Sarabhanga and his faithful wife  
Entered the fire and casting away the mortal bodies, ascended to the Supreme abode  
When the benefit attained of uttering one name of Vishnu is beyond comprehension  
Can we comprehend the benefits to the sage and his wife who saw Vishnu Himself? (15)

### PASSAGE THROUGH THE FOREST:

Leaving the Sage's hermitage with a heavy heart, the three passed through the forest  
Full of tall trees, woodlands, mountains, diamond like rocks, rivers, lakes and groves  
Ancient sages, including those who took the vow of silence, were pleased at their presence  
Discerning the essence of Rama's arrival, the sages got rid of sorrow and fear of rakshasas (16)

### VOW TO PROTECT THE SAGES:

Saluting the sages, Rama asked their command for him to perform and was told  
O protector of the world, we are no longer able to perform our duties due  
To the evil rakshasas without dharma having oppressed us from reciting Vedas  
You have appeared here as the Sun that dutifully raises to remove the darkness (17)

Unless the rakshasas assure me of desisting from their evil deeds, I promise  
To slay them all, grieve not – thus vowed the processor of the *Kodandam*,  
The mightiest bow that borne the burden of annihilating the unrighteous at  
His command and whose prowess is incomparable, The Prince of Ayodhya (18)

### SAGE AGASTYA:

Tranquility prevailed during their stay with the sages in the Dandaka forests for ten years  
Rama, with the companionship of Laxmana and Sita set out to meet Sage Agastya, who  
Just as Mahavishnu had covered the world with his feet as Vamana, had measured  
The world with the greatness of Tamil, the nectar among languages (19)

In the days of yore, Agastya had swallowed the entire oceans to expose the *asuras*  
He had easily consumed the treacherous rakshasa Vatapi and relieved the world  
Of distress and was like the small seed that is the origin of the huge banyan tree  
Great Tamil grammar was presented by Lord Siva to Agastya in the form of a text (20)

When the marriage of Lord Siva and Parvathi took place in the Himalayas  
Due to the congregation the *devas* and blessed humans, the northern region went down  
Sage Agastya alone went to the southern region and created the Vindhya mountains  
Duly restoring the balance of the land mass to the delight of all (21)

Southern Vindhya mountains stood as tall as the Himalayas and the yogis  
Were having difficulty crossing it, so they requested Agastya's help  
Who stood on it firmly like an elephant and pushed most of it into the  
Nether worlds and stretched it as it prostrated to him (22)

Thrilled at seeing the very essence of the Primal God, Rama  
Tears fell from the eyes of Agastya, who had once carried the  
Exquisite Kaveri river in his *kamandalam* to help protect the  
Living beings in the region from the monstrous winds (23)

Rama prostrated at the feet of the Sage and Agastya embraced Him  
O embodiment of compassion! I have gained the merits of my penance  
Agastya thus addressed the Prince of Ayodhya to which Rama responded  
O scholar of the Vedas! I have already conquered the worlds by your grace (24)

Agastya gave the splendorous bow and an ever full set of quivers to Rama  
That was once held by the ancient Lord Tirumal who had measured  
The three worlds and protected the *devas* and their King Devendra  
Agastya then advised the three to proceed further south and reach *Panchavathi* (25)

### JATAYU:

Crossing numerous rivers, mountains and dense forests, the three walked  
Further south and saw a giant vulture that resembled the rising sun's rays  
Jatayu, the vulture through his small eyes could see far like an inquisitive,  
Truthful and wise minister of a great king, essential for good governance (26)

Jatayu, the enemy of rakshasas, was a son of Aruna, the charioteer of *Soorya*  
Whose fame was beyond description and was a friend of Emperor Dasaratha  
Inquiring the young princes why such young men with the beautiful lady are  
Traversing the harsh forests, Jatayu learned their ancestry and the death of Dasaratha (27)



## V. SUNDARA KANDAM

### CROSSING THE SEA:

Standing on the Mahendra mountain in the southern land, Hanuman  
Grew so tall that he peered into the celestial worlds and mistook it for Lanka.  
Realizing that Sita could not be found in the heavens, the son of Vayu  
Glanced down and saw the flag posts, gardens and the walled city of Lanka (1)

Having spotted the splendor that is Lanka  
In the midst of the high seas  
Hanuman slapped his mountain like shoulders,  
Thunderous sound shook all eight directions and the heavens (2)

Immortal Hanuman pressed his feet firmly on the mountain  
Birds flew away from their nests in the shaking trees,  
Lions roared in fear escaping from the crumbling caves  
In the dense forest at the base of the mountain (3)

Sages performing penance at the peaks of the mountain  
Were thrown into the heavens by the forces that spun  
Mahendra mountain by the sheer weight of Hanuman,  
Despite having conquered the senses incompletely (4)

Cheerful army of monkeys reminded the mighty Hanuman that  
Agastya, the foremost Tamil sage once drank the entire sea  
In one gulp, yet cautioned him not to be condescending towards  
The task of crossing the sea to reach Lanka (5)

Saluting his faithful companions, Hanuman further pressed his feet  
Lifted his long tail up and thrust his two hands forward  
Leaping in one push, the son of wind god flew towards  
The city of Lanka obscured by the dense clouds (6)

Speed of the flying Hanuman tore the sea; He saw the nether world  
Inhabited by the fierce sea snakes sparkling in multi colors  
Crocodiles and other aquatic creatures got frightened and became quiet  
Waves of the seas dashed against the walls of the city of Lanka (7)

Mainakam, the submerged mountain in the sea rose up  
Obstructing the path of the mountain like Hanuman  
Your father once saved me from destruction by the asteroid  
Like celestial missile sent by Devendra – Please rest on me,  
Feast on the many fruits and herbs said Mainakam (8)

Pursuing Rama's bidding, I will not eat or drink till the goal is achieved  
Hanuman replied while marveling at the compassion of the mountain  
Soorya – the sun god wondered whom the mighty Hanuman might jump at  
Since he had once caught hold of the chariot, stopping Sun's rotation in the galaxy (9)

Celestial gods sent a noble woman, Surasai to test Hanuman's strength  
Assuming the form of a wide-mouthed Rakshasi, she yelled at him  
You are my food! – Get in my mouth and try to escape, if you can?  
Responding kindly to the giant Rakshasi, Hanuman asked her to move away (10)

Surasai tried to swallow Hanuman, who grew bigger to which she responded  
Growing further, the son of Vayu frustrated the rakshashi with his enormous size  
Changing to a nanoscale form Hanuman darted into her mouth and came out  
Thus fulfilling her challenge to him, Hanuman proceeded to do Rama's command (11)

Transforming into her normal female form, Surasai blessed Hanuman  
Celestials marveled at the feat of the son of Vayu and sang about his greatness  
*Thenral* – the southern cool wind breezed through his path as if to energize him  
Hanuman flew as the *pralaya wind*, the dark energy that binds the objects in the cosmos (12)

### ENTERING THE CITY:

Flying ever faster than the speed of thought, Hanuman reached the skies of  
Lanka in no time – Surveying the gold coated palaces and mansions below  
Hanuman exclaimed that if heaven were on Earth, it would be Lanka!  
Resuming his normal form, Hanuman landed near the gates of the city (13)

Lanka Devi, the vigilant guardian of Lanka for ages, furiously greeted the  
Intruding Hanuman entering the walled city shinning in the full moon night.  
Hurling the powerful trident in her hand, Lanka Devi challenged Hanuman;  
Breaking the weapon into pieces, Hanuman gave a mighty blow to her (14)

Rolling onto the ground like a large tree uprooted by the lightning from the sky  
Lanka Devi fell on the ground but praised Hanuman's strength and determination  
O Mighty Warrior! – Lord Brahma commanded me to protect the city till date  
Struck by a monkey and then destruction of Ravana's Lanka will begin, said she (15)

Paying obeisance to Hanuman, Lanka Devi flew to the abode of Brahma  
With the zest of the bees going after the fragrant flowers in search of nectar  
Hanuman searched each palace and mansion looking for the sign of Sita  
He saw the giant Kumpakarna and the serene Vibishana, brothers of Ravana (16)

### SITA SEEN:

Entering the royal mansion of Ravana, Hanuman mistook his wife Mandodhari  
Sleeping on the royal bed for Sita – but realized his mistake as that was an asura woman  
Like the all-pervading Lord Tirumal in his heart, Hanuman looked at every direction  
Seeing a garden full of flowers dripping with nectar, Hanuman went to look for Sita (17)

Surrounded by the giant and ugly rakshashis, Hanuman saw an emaciated lady  
Who shone like the very incarnation of Laxmi, the consort of Lord Vishnu  
Dharma is still alive – Hanuman praised the natural law and felt immense happiness  
In seeing the wife of his Lord Rama, the Prince of Ayodhya (18)

### RAVANA CHASTISED:

Seated in a branch of a beautiful big tree in the Asoka grove, Hanuman Contemplated that it was indeed Lord Vishnu and Goddess Laxmi who Have incarnated as his Lord Rama and his consort, Sita; then he saw Ravana – the ten headed demon ruler of Lanka entering the garden (19)

Red clothes worn by the dark colored Ravana resembled as the Rising Sun in the morning peering through the thick mountain Like a multi-hooded serpent with poisonous venom, Ravana was Approaching the chaste Sita, begging for her consent (20)

Chastising the ill-tempered Ravana in spite of being an expert in Sama Veda, Sita narrated the story of how Lord Rama subdued the Strength of Parasurama who had previously conquered Kartaveer-arjuna Who himself became famous for imprisoning Ravana for a while (21)

Dear honey-tongued Sita! – Rama and Laxmana who were fooled by the golden Deer and I, disguised as a mendicant will not come to rescue you – retorted Ravana Demanding the grotesque rakshasis to harass Sita till she agrees to his wishes, the Deluded ruler of Lanka left the garden in dejection (22)

### HANUMAN REVEALS HIMSELF:

Finding the appropriate moment to talk to Sita, Hanuman uttered a few mantras That put the horde of rakshasis surrounding the noble lady Sita into deep sleep Prostrating before the peacock like Sita, Hanuman introduced himself as the Messenger of Lord Rama and a minister for the king of monkeys, - Sugreeva (23)

Sugreeva, the son of Soorya was crowned by Lord Rama after killing the Valiant Vali, who had once tied up Ravana by his tail, with a single arrow I came here to see you and convey back to Rama so that the restless army of Monkeys can accompany the Lord for the battle to free you, said Hanuman (24)

Sugreeva had collected the jewels cast away by you during your abduction by Ravana Only the sight of those jewels shown to him by Sugreeva is keeping Rama alive! A great army of monkeys was send to search for your location headed by Angada, the Son of Vali and it is my fortune that I met you, thus spoke Hanuman (25)

Pleased but the still apprehensive Sita was persuaded on the good intentions of Hanuman, as he narrated several instances from her joyful life with Rama Son of Vayu then presented the royal signet of Rama to Sita – Seeing the ring, Sita was overjoyed and blessed Hanuman as one who unites separated lovers (26)

The royal signet was like nourishing food for the famished Sita and was like a Life giving medicine for a person about to die – May Rama's ring live forever! Is there anything I can do in return for the favor you have done to me? – O great One! Sita thus eulogized the best among the monkeys, Hanuman (27)

### CHOODAMAI:

Seeing the puzzled look of Sita wondering how an ordinary monkey  
Could have crossed the high seas, Hanuman grew in size to such an  
Extent that Sita was unable to see anything more than the feet of him  
Assume your original form – Frightened Sita asked the son of Vayu (28)

With folded hands, Hanuman revealed the secret that it is his  
Reciting the name of Rama constantly with devotion that has  
Made the impossible possible - the best among the wise then  
Offered to carry Sita to Rama on his shoulders (29)

Terming that accepting his offer would be a blot to Rama's valor  
Sita gave Hanuman her Choodamai – the gem studded head jewel  
That resembled her crimson body and that of the sacred feet of Rama  
Have the Choodamani as a proof of you having seen me, told Sita (30)

Tying the head jewel of Sita in his clothes for protection, Hanuman  
Prostrated Sita and went around her three times and left the Asoka garden  
Re-energized as a lion well fed, Hanuman decided to send a message to Ravana by  
Uprooting the tall trees, throwing the branches, fruits and rocks (31)

### SLAYING OF THE KINKARAS AND RAVANA'S CHIEFS:

The calamitous sound created by Hanuman's destruction of the garden  
And the aimless running of the elephants of Lanka attracted Ravana's attention  
Kinkaras, the special forces of the rakshasas were sent to subdue the ordinary looking  
Monkey who was indeed the very incarnation of Lord Siva (32)

Ordered by Ravana to capture the monkey alive, Kinkaras came out to fight  
Hanuman who stood like the Kailasa mountain touching the sky  
Innumerable Kinkaras who attacked him looked like a serpent colony  
That was about to be consumed by the big eagle, Garuda (33)

Hanuman annihilated the Kinkaras in a flash and Ravana's spies fled  
To the palace of their king to tell him of the destruction of his special forces  
Jambumali, a giant rakshasa was the next to get killed by Hanuman, followed  
By the five chiefs of Ravana along with their army of soldiers (34)

Infuriated by the havoc caused by the irrepressible Hanuman, Ravana  
Prepared to go to war himself when one of his sons - Akshaya Kumara  
Volunteered to bring back the havoc wrecking monkey to his assembly  
Akshaya Kumara fought fiercely with Hanuman but met the same fate (35)

Indrajit, the vanquisher of Devendra and the prince of Lanka  
Rose in anger at the news of the death of his brother by Hanuman  
Indrajit sent the Brahmastra missile at Hanuman, who sensing the opportunity  
To meet Ravana and his assembly got bound by the missile (36)

Brahmastra missile that bound Hanuman appeared like the serpent Vasuki  
Of the yore, the rakshasas looked like the celestials holding the serpent and  
Hanuman resembled as the Mandara mountain that churned the Milky Ocean  
Indrajit led the procession that dragged the bound Hanuman (37)

#### HANUMAN MEETS RAVANA:

Hanuman confronted the mighty Ravana, seated in a golden throne,  
The lord of the eight directions as Garuda challenges a huge black cobra  
Ravana's ten heads were contemplating various evil deeds for Earth and heaven  
Wise Hanuman controlled his anger to pounce at the evil Ravana (38)

Who are you? Why did you come to Lanka? Are you Lord Muruga or Yama?  
Thus enquired the angry ruler of Lanka of Hanuman, the follower of Lord Rama  
I am the messenger of the brave archer, the son of the king who once ruled the worlds  
He is not Trinity of Gods, nor a Deva or Rakshasa, but a human being, replied Hanuman (39)

The Supreme Being who terminates the cycles of birth and death for those  
Who worship Him with devotion has been born as the son of Emperor of Ayodhya  
To uphold Dharma and to relieve the virtuous from the evil rakshasas – He is Rama!  
I am his servant. A minister of king Sugreeva introduced Hanuman (40)

I have come to Lanka to see Sita as a messenger of Angada, the son of Vali  
Who was sent as head of the army of monkeys looking for her in the southern direction  
O messenger of Vali's son! How is Vali and his kingdom asked the king of Rakshasas  
Vali is dead, killed by a single arrow emanating from Rama's quiver – Hanuman replied (41)

You have lost the merits of all your penance and the wisdom gained from the  
Knowledge of all the Vedas, the moment you abducted Princess Sita, Hanuman added  
I have been ordered by King Sugreeva, the son of Soorya to tell you that you must  
Return the chaste Sita if you wish to save your kingdom and rakshasa race (42)

Laughing at the ordinary looking monkey, Ravana blamed the Vanaras led by  
Sugreeva for having aligned with the lowly humans and praised his rakshasas  
You are to die, for your destruction of Asoka grove and killing of many rakshasas  
Put an end to this creature, yelled Ravana, the king of Rakshasas (43)

Vibheeshana, the noble brother of Ravana intervened and reminded Ravana that  
Killing a messenger is not worthy of his vedic knowledge; Ravana agreed but  
Ordered the rakshasas to set fire to the tail of Hanuman as a punishment  
Thus Hanuman's tail was ignited as if to foretell the destruction awaiting Lanka (44)

#### LANKA BURNED:

Hanuman was puzzled to feel cool instead of being burned and praised  
Sita for her kind prayers on his behalf as would a mother for her child  
Set free by the rakshasas after being set on fire in his tail, Hanuman jumped  
From one tall building to another, setting the city of Lanka on fire (45)

Omnipresent fire destroyed the seven floors of Ravana's palace  
Just as the seven worlds would be destroyed during the *Pralaya*  
Ravana escaped from his palace with his entourage in the *Pushpaka Vimana*  
The unique flying chariot of the celestials confiscated by him (46)

Flying faster than the rakshasas sent to catch him, Hanuman  
Flew to the Asoka grove and was relieved to see Sita unharmed  
Paying obeisance to her again, the son of Vayu set his sight on  
Crossing the high seas to reach his vanara army (47)

#### JOYFUL UNION WITH THE VANARAS:

Growing in size as the Lord Vishnu during the *pralaya*  
Swallowing the worlds in his mouth, Hanuman rose in the sky  
Along the way, he told the Mainakam mountain about all that happened  
Hanuman's lustrous form indicated to the joyous vanaras his triumph (48)

Landing on the mountain on the southern land after crossing the sea  
Hanuman assumed his original form and paid obeisance to Angada,  
And to the king of Bears, Jambavan who had such faith in his strength  
Vanaras looked at the numerous injuries on his body (49)

Narrating the incidence of obtaining the Choodamani from Sita  
Hanuman did not elaborate any of his exploits in Lanka showing his  
Urgency to meet his beloved Lord Rama; Vanaras replied that your  
Injuries and the smoke seen from here on Lanka tell everything! (50)

#### WORSHIPING THE LORD'S FEET:

Crimson-eyed Rama was being consoled by Sugreeva as the  
Batch of vanara armies sent to the directions - North, East and West  
Came back without sighting Sita; A thunderous sound erupted from the  
Southern direction as Hanuman flew fast to reach Rama (51)

Has the Sun changed direction and started to rise from the South? -  
Seeing the bright object flying towards them, wondered Rama and Sugreeva  
Landing near his king and beloved master, Hanuman saluted not them but South  
The all-knowing Rama understood the astute actions of his bhaktha (52)

Seen Sita! – The combined personification of joyous noble birth, patience and chastity  
Hanuman told Rama that the daughter of Janaka, woman born of penance done by penance  
Is being held by the evil king of rakshasas, the ten headed Ravana in the island of Lanka  
Surrounded by tidal seas and protected by tall fortresses on all sides assessed Hanuman (53)

Hanuman gave the jewel Choodamani to Rama, - To whom its sight was akin to  
Reliving the day his handsome hand held the sacred hand of Sita at their wedding  
Rama's shoulders and chest swelled in excitement at the happy news and Hanuman's deed  
Sugreeva's army began moving towards southern direction as waves of unbound sea (54)

CORONATION OF THE LORD:

Hanuman held the Royal Throne, young Angatha vigilant with the sword  
Bharatha upheld the white umbrella; the two brothers waved the chowries  
Ancestor of Satayappan of Thiruvennaiyur, the benefactor of Kamban  
Gave the glittering crown to Sage Vasistha who placed it on the Lord  
Sita with the long flowing hair seated besides Him.

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