

HANUMAN - LESSON 5



Hanuman Burns Lanka

As you remember from the last lesson, after finding Sita in Ravana's Ashoka garden, Hanuman wants to teach those demons a small lesson, and started destroying the garden.

The demon guards ran to Ravana. "Sire! There is a huge monkey destroying your Asoka garden. What shall we do?" Ravana looked puzzled. "A monkey? Send a platoon of guards and capture him." A platoon of guards rushed out of the palace to capture Hanuman. Hanuman was not in the least disturbed. With one hand, he continued eating fruits. With the other, he picked out the largest tree and swatted the soldiers like they were flies. Those that survived ran back to King Ravana.

King Ravana then sent the sons of his five ministers and many soldiers. They also were killed. He sent one of his powerful sons, Akshayakumar, and he was also killed. Finally he sent Meghanada, a very powerful son of his. He and Hanuman fought for a long time. Meghanada had many powerful missiles, like atomic weapons he sent at Hanuman. But remember how all the gods had blessed Hanuman when he flew to the Sun? None of these weapons had any effect on Hanuman.

Finally, Meghanada sent the powerful Brahmastra at Hanuman. It also had no effect on him, but out of respect for Brahma, he fell down as if he had been knocked unconscious. Then, all the foolish demons wrapped ropes around Hanuman, as if these would hold him.

Hanuman was then dragged in front of King Ravana. "Who are you, and why are you destroying my Asoka Garden and all my troops!" demanded Ravana in anger. Hanuman looked around at the throne room of Ravana. He felt not the slightest fear of Ravana. He also bore Ravana no hatred, even though he had deeply wronged Lord Rama. He admired the strength and majesty of Ravana, and thought "If only this sinner did good to others, he would be a really great King".

Hanuman answered Ravana "I am the emissary of Sri Rama. I killed your guards because they attacked me while I was eating fruit in the garden. I am here to tell you, if only you would surrender to Sri Rama, and beg his pardon for stealing Sita, he will forgive you and allow you to continue to reign in Lanka."

Ravana laughed! "Me surrender to a puny man! Do you know who you are talking to! I have conquered both heaven and earth!" Ravana was deluded by egoism. He did not know that Rama was really God incarnate.

“Let us kill this monkey!” said Ravana. His brother Vibhishana was there. He said “Ravana, it is not proper to kill an ambassador. If you want to punish this monkey, do something else to him.” They decided to set his tail on fire, as the tail is the most precious part of the body for a monkey. So they took Hanuman in the big square, and wrapped his tail in oily rags, and set it on fire. Hanuman did not mind this at all. He wanted them to drag him through the streets so he could better understand the layout of Lanka. He knew war was coming, and wanted to know what parts of Lanka to attack in the future.

They started dragging Hanuman through the streets of Lanka with his tail on fire. Everywhere he was taken, the demons laughed and jeered at him. Some ran up and kicked him in the sides, or spit on him. Hanuman was always continuously lost in love trance of Sri Ram. All this abuse of his physical body did not bother him in the least.

In the Asoka Grove, the guards told Sita that Hanuman had been captured, and was being dragged through the streets with his tail on fire. “Oh Fire God, if I have been true in my heart to Sri Rama, please do not burn Hanuman!” prayed Sita. Hanuman was surprised to find that although his tail was lit on fire, he felt no heat at all and it didn’t burn him. After he had seen enough, he shrunk his body a little bit, so that all the ropes fell off his body. Then he started growing to an enormous size. He started flying around the city. He let loose his terrible roar, terrifying the citizens. His tail was still on fire, and wherever he went, he set the city on fire. The whole city began to burn, with the exception of Vibhishana’s home, and the Asoka Grove of Sita, which he spared. “GLORY TO SRI RAM! GLORY TO SRI RAM!” shouted Hanuman.

Hanuman then returned to the Asoka grove, assumed a small form and knelt at the feet of Sita. She gave him some of her trinkets to take to Sri Rama. She blessed Hanuman, and then he flew back across the ocean to his waiting comrades Jambavantha, Angada, and others. The sight of Hanuman brought them immense pleasure and relief.

In his anxiety to get news about Sita, Sri Rama was counting each day at Kishkindha. Hanuman narrated all his doings to Rama in detail and also gave him the ornament sent by Sita. Rama was overjoyed, embraced Hanuman, and praised Him highly. Rama said “Hanuman has done what no one else in the world could do. I had not seen a hero who could leap across the sea. Hanuman is also a very intelligent messenger who has done not only what he was asked, but also what he thought was appropriate.”

Preparations started for the war with Ravana. The vanara army marched towards the sea shore, where Hanuman flew to Lanka. Then Vanaras built a Varadhi (a floating

bridge) to cross the ocean to Lanka with stones. Each stone was painted with “Sri Rama” on it so that the stone will float on the water. That was the power of Rama Namam.

After Hanuman left Lanka, Vibhishana tried to advise his elder brother Ravana. But was Ravana a person to listen to wise counsel? So, Vibhishana left Lanka and surrendered to Rama. There were heated arguments whether Vibhishana should be given shelter or not. Sri Rama turned to Hanuman for his opinion. Hanuman said, “My Lord, allow me to say one thing. I have carefully watched Vibhishana’s face and listened to his voice when he was speaking. He has no deceit or evil intention. I think we should accept him. But with your matchless intelligent, only you can finally decide what you should do with Vibhishana.” Rama said “Anyone who seeks shelter at my feet, I will accept him, no matter who he is.”

Slokas:

Hanuman Mantra / Stotra:

**Manojavam Maarutatulyavegam
Jitendriyam Buddhimataam Varistham
Vaataatmajam Vaanarayoothamukhyam
Sriramadootam Sirasa Namami**

Vishun Stotra:

**Shuklambharadharam Vishnum Shashivarnam Chaturbhujam,
Prasanna Vadanm Dhyayet Sarva Vignopa Shantaye**

Rama Mantra:

**Sri Rama Rama Rameti, Rame Rame Manorame
Sahasranama tattulyam, Rama Nama Varanane**

Durga Stotra:

**Om Sarva Mangala Maangalye Shive Sarvaartha Saadhike
Sharanye Triyambake Gauri, Naaraayani Namostute**

Ganesh Sloka:

**Vakra Tunda Mahaa Kaaya; Suryakoti Samaprabha
Nirvighnam Kurume Deva; Sarvakaaryeshu Sarvadaa**

Guru Stotra:

**Gurur Brahmaa Gurur Vishnu; Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guruh Saakshaat Parabrahma; Tasmai Shree Gurave Namah**

Saraswati Stotra

***Saraswathi Namasthubyam Varade Kamaroopini
Vidyarambham Karishyami Siddhir Bhavatume Sada***

HANUMAN JAYANTI



Coloring Exercise: