

DASHAVATAR – RAMA AVATAR (Ramayan – Part 13)



Hearing the rejoicing cries of the monkeys, Ravana could guess that Rama and Lakshmana had recovered. Becoming enraged, the Rakshasa king called Dhumraksha, a demon warrior and asked him to go with an army and kill Rama, Lakshmana and the monkeys. Dhumraksha along with his army entered the western gate of Lanka, where the army-chief Hanuman was stationed. In a fierce battle, Hanuman hurled a rock upon Dhumraksha's head, and the Rakshasa hero fell down dead with all his limbs shattered. Ravana next sends the great Rakshasa warriors Vajradamstra, Akampana, and Prahasta one after another, and in no time they have got killed by the Vanara warriors, Hanuman, and Nila, respectively.

When Ravana learned about Prahasta's death, his heart became afflicted with an unbearable torment. Then Ravana asked some demons to go wake up his brother, Kumbhakarna, who was sleeping. Kumbhakarna was cursed that he would sleep most of the time. So he was very hard to wake up. They had to play large kettle drums to wake him up! When he got up, he was very hungry, and huge pieces of meat and drank barrels of blood. You see, Kumbhakarna was what we call a giant. He had a colossal form. He knew nothing of the battle because he had been sleeping.

Rama sees Kumbhakarna walking and enquires from Vibhishana about him. Vibhishana says "Kumbhakarna is the biggest of all the Rakshasa, and he has defeated even the lord of death, Yamaraja." Vibhishana then informed Rama of Kumbhakarna's history as follows: As soon as he was born, Kumbhakarna began to hungrily devour thousands of living creatures. Because of this, the created beings took the shelter of Indra. The King of heaven became enraged when he learned what was happening. Thereafter, when Indra attacked and released his thunderbolt, Kumbhakarna was knocked unconscious. But, after quickly recovering, he tore out one of Airavata's, the Indra's elephant vehicle, tusks and smashed it against Indra's chest, hurting him severely. Then Indra went to see Lord Brahma with all the created beings. Brahma foresees the situation, went to Kumbhakarna and said, "You have been created for the destruction of the world, but now is the time for universal maintenance. So, for the welfare of all living beings, you shall remain continually buried in deep sleep from this day on." Apparently Vibhishana adds that on an appeal from Ravana, Brahma relaxed the curse saying that Kumbhakarna would keep sleeping for every six months and then waking up for a day in a year.

Kumbhakarna entered the abode of Ravana and saw his worried brother sitting in Pushpaka, a self-moving aerial car. Kumbhakarna asked Ravana about the nature of work to be done by him and whether he has to kill anyone. Ravana replies that Rama has come with troops of monkeys including Sugriva, after crossing the ocean by a bridge, to wage a battle. Ravana requests Kumbhakarna to show his terrible prowess in killing all the adversaries in battle.

Kumbhakarna got very angry at Ravana for stealing another man's wife and starting a war. How could he be so stupid? But Kumbhakarna was loyal to him, and promised him that he would kill all the enemies or be killed himself. Ravana arranged for ornamentation of the various limbs of Kumbhakarna with various types of jewelery, before sending him to the battle. As Kumbhakarna sallies forth to the battle, bad omens appear on all sides. Kumbhakarna disregards these portents and marches ahead for the battle. Seeing the colossal form of Kumbhakarna, all the monkeys get frightened and take to their heels.

Angada reassures the monkeys, who then return to the battle field to resume fight. When the monkeys start attacking Kumbhakarna, he crushes them with rage. The monkeys get frightened again and run away in different directions. Angada restores the monkeys to confidence and all the monkeys stand awaiting the command of Angada. Dvidida, a leader of the monkeys, hurls a mountain towards Kumbhakarna, but it misses the target and falls on horses, elephants and chariots of the enemy. Dvidida hurls another mountain and some demons are killed. Hanuman strikes Kumbhakarna with a large mountain-peak and injures him severely. In reply, Kumbhakarna

strikes on Hanuman's chest with his spike. Then, Kumbhakarna strikes other monkey-chiefs attacking him. Thousands of monkeys then ascend Kumbhakarna's body and encounters him with their nails, fists, teeth and arms. In response, Kumbhakarna destroys all those monkeys with his spike. When Angada, the leader of the monkeys, attacks Kumbhakarna, the latter strikes Angada violently and Angada falls unconscious. Then, Kumbhakarna begins his attack on Sugriva. Sugriva strikes Kumbhakarna's chest with a mountain, but the mountain only breaks into pieces. When Kumbhakarna throws his spike towards Sugriva in retaliation, Hanuman stops it on the way and breaks it off. Then, Kumbhakarna hurls a mountain-crust on Sugriva to make him unconscious and takes him away on his shoulders to Lanka. When Sugriva regains consciousness, he tears off the ears and nose of Kumbhakarna with his sharp nails and teeth. In retaliation, Kumbhakarna threw Sugriva down and crushed him. Then Sugriva flew into the air and gets reunited with Rama. Kumbhakarna then takes his hammer and begins to attack the monkeys and bears. Then, Lakshmana starts to attack Kumbhakarna with his arrows. Kumbhakarna appreciates the valour of Lakshmana and proceeds towards Rama to fight with him. Rama discharges some arrows with 'Rounder' spell towards Kumbhakarna. Those arrows disappear into Kumbhakarna's chest and make him weapon-less. In retaliation, Kumbhakarna hurls a mountain-peak towards Rama and even before the mountain-peak reaches Rama, it was split up into pieces by the arrows released by Rama. Thereupon, on the advice given by Lakshmana, all the monkeys climb straight upon Kumbhakarna's body. Kumbhakarna shakes them off with violence. Then, Rama employs a great missile and chops off one arm of Kumbhakarna. When Kumbhakarna with an uprooted tree in his arm, retaliates by running towards Rama, the latter with an arrow, presided over by Indra, shoots it and chops off the second arm of Kumbhakarna. Rama then chops off the feet of Kumbhakarna with his arrows and finally slashes off his head, after which the great and terrible rakshasa dies.

Hearing the news of Kumbhakarna having been killed by Rama, Ravana laments in various ways, thinking that he has virtually lost his right arm. Ravana initially faints on hearing the shocking news. On regaining consciousness, Ravana again wonders how the invincible Kumbhakarna was slain in battle.

Seeing their father's despair, his younger sons tried to cheer him up and insisted on going, in a gang, to the battle front to try their luck. Ravana embraced them and allowed them to go. Though the princes were all valiant, one by one they were all killed and the news taken to Ravana. The heroes, who had set out so enthusiastically in the morning, now lay like felled trees on the battlefield. Ravana could not bear it. He just did not know what he should do. He was surprised at how Rama and Lakshmana got released from the bind of arrows made by Indrajit. He felt that no demon was capable of defeating Rama and Lakshmana. He began to wonder if there was any truth in what he had heard about Rama - that He was Narayana Himself, who had taken on a human birth in order to kill him. He told the demons to protect the City of Lanka and even the Ashoka garden, where Sita was kept. He asked the army not to be indifferent to the movements of the monkey-warriors. After issuing the necessary instruction to his army, he entered deep into his palace and thought about the death of his sons.

Seeing his father Ravana in such sorrow, Indrajit promises to destroy Rama and Lakshmana. After receiving his father's blessings, Indrajit set out for the battle, accompanied by his army. After reaching the battle-field, Indrajit performed a sacrificial ritual there, duly making an oblation to the fire. After performing the sacrificial rite, Indrajit made himself invisible in the sky. While remaining invisible, he began raining down arrows upon the monkey soldiers. The monkeys tried to retaliate by hurling stones and trees in the direction from which the arrows were coming, but Indrajit tore all these to pieces. He then invoked the Brahmastra weapon, causing heaven and earth to tremble, and the countless arrows produced by that supreme weapon pierced all the great monkey warriors, making them fall to the ground. While remaining invisible, Indrajit continued to shower down spears, swords and axes upon his enemies. The bewildered monkeys could only see the shining weapons falling from the sky, but they could not locate their assailant. Even Hanuman, Sugriva, Jambavan and Nila fell to the ground wounded, and Rama and Lakshmana also appeared to be eclipsed by Indrajit's weapons. Lakshmana was seriously wounded by Indrajit's powerful weapon and fell to the ground unconscious. Rama also fell unconscious when he saw the state

of Lakshmana. Seeing that his enemies were vanquished, Indrajit shouted with joy and then returned to Lanka, to tell his father the good news.

The monkeys became exceedingly depressed upon seeing Rama and Lakshmana's condition, but Vibhishana informed them, "You should not lament like this. Rama has voluntarily put Himself in this condition just to honor the weapon of Lord Brahma, the Brahmastra. Very soon He will once again rise up to vanquish the enemy." Hanuman then offered his respects to the brahmastra and suggested "The fighting has subsided and night has fallen. Our first business should be go and restore the remaining monkey soldiers to confidence." Hanuman and Vibhishana took up torches and began wandering over the battlefield. They saw Sugriva, Angada, Nila, Nala, and another 670 million monkeys lying upon the ground, having been stuck down by Indrajit's brahmastra. After searching for Jambavan, they found him also severely wounded.

In the meantime, Rama regained his consciousness. He was extremely upset to see the fate of Lakshmana and all the vanara warriors. Vibhishana suggested there was a great physician in Lanka named Sushena. Hanuman flew to the city and brought Susena back in no time. "If Lakshmana does not get the herb Sanjivini by morning, he will die" said the physician. Jambavan requests Hanuma to proceed to the Himalayas, by crossing over the ocean and to bring four important herbs. These are – Mritasanjivini, which can restore even a dead person to life; Sialyakarani, which is used while extracting weapons and for healing wounds; Suvarnakarani, which restores the body to its original luster; and Sandhani, which is used for healing fractured bones and joining severed limbs. Immediately, Hanuman began his journey to Himalayas. Flying with lightning speed, he finally reached far away Mount Rishabh, where the wonderful herbs existed. He started searching for the four herbs. But he could not find them anywhere! What to do? Hanuman uprooted the whole mountain, and started carrying the whole thing through the sky back to Lanka!

When Hanuman arrived back on the battlefield carrying the mountain, the fresh fragrance from all those herbs filled the air. Inhaling the odor of those herbs, Lakshmana and all the monkeys awoke and came back to their normal condition. After the accomplishment of his mission, Hanuman quickly returned to the Himalayas and put the mountain peak back in its original place. This whole episode took place in just one day! When Hanuman returned to Lanka, it was already dark.

King Sugreeva asked Hanuman to set the City of Lanka on fire. Soon after, the vanaras began their march to Lanka. When they came to the city gates, the Rakshasa guards fled in fear, and so they were able to enter Lanka without a fight. With torches in their hands, they set fire to Lanka. The City was burnt up by the monkeys within a short time. Getting healed of their wounds, Rama and Lakshmana took up their bows to resume fighting. Gates and buildings in the city tumbled down when hit by Rama's powerful arrows. This made Ravana really angry! He sent Kumbha and Nikumbha, sons of Kumbhakarna along with a huge demon army into the battle. A terrific fight ensue between the monkeys and the demons. All the monkeys finally surround the army of demons on all sides.

Ravana instructs Indrajit to proceed to the battle field. Before proceeding to the battle, Indrajit performs ceremonial oblations into a sacred fire and obtains a capacity of going out of sight while fighting. He proceeds to the battle-field and releases a flood of arrows towards Rama and Lakshmana, while himself remaining invisible in the sky. With a network of arrows, Indrajit creates darkness in the sky and showers a multitude of steel arrows towards Rama and Lakshmana. Sharp golden shafts are then released by Rama and Lakshmana. Struck by the arrows discharged by Indrajit, monkeys in hundreds fall down dead. Then, Rama and Lakshmana reflect on the various ways and means to destroy Indrajit.

Seeing the two valiant brothers, Rama and Lakshmana, who were prepared for the encounter, Indrajit demonstrates his conjuring tricks. Placing an illusory live image of Sita in his chariot, Indrajit along with his army

enters the battle-field. While Hanuman and his army are watching, Indrajit pulls Sita by her hair, unsheaths his sword, and kills the illusory Sita. Led by Hanuman, the monkeys fight with Indrajit's demon army with trees and rocks. On seeing his army seriously hurt, Indrajit releases a number of arrows and kills some monkeys. Hanuman then destroys some terrible demons with trees and rocks. Later, Hanuman along with his army returns to the presence of Rama. Indrajit leaves the battle and pours oblations into the sacred fire at the sanctuary of Nikumbhila.

Hanuman approaches Rama and informs him that Indrajit has killed Sita. Rama faints away, upon hearing the news. The monkeys sprinkle water on Rama, so that he regains consciousness. Knowing Indrajit's conjuring tricks, Vibhishana assures Him that Sita is still alive. He urges Rama to send Lakshmana with an army to the sanctuary of Nikumbhila to kill Indrajit before Indrajit completes his sacrificial fire. Rama then asks Lakshmana to proceed with the battle along with armies of Sugriva, Hanuman, Jambavan and Vibhishana. Lakshmana accompanied by Vibhishana, Angada and Hanuma penetrates that heterogeneous army of the enemies at the sanctuary of Nikumbhila.

Vibhishana takes Lakshmana to the place where Indrajit is performing the sacrificial rite. He advises Lakshmana to destroy Indrajit even before he finishes the sacrificial rite at the banyan tree. Indrajit sees Vibhishana there and starts talking harsh words to him, saying that he has betrayed him by bringing Lakshmana to that place. Vibhishana replies that because of Ravana's vices, he has left him and joined Rama's side. He further adds that Indrajit and his army will not survive Lakshmana's arrows.

A fierce battle of archery starts between Indrajit and Lakshmana. Indrajit strikes Lakshmana with seven arrows, Hanuman with ten arrows and Vibhishana with a hundred arrows, almost at the same time. In retaliation, Lakshmana strikes Indrajit with many arrows and Indrajit's armour breaks up into pieces. Indrajit, in response, strikes Lakshmana with a thousand arrows and breaks up Lakshmana's armour. A fierce fight ensues for a long time. Meanwhile, Vibhishana attacked other Rakshasas. He speaks encouraging words to the chiefs of monkeys urging them to carry on the combat. The monkeys start a furious attack on the demons. Hanuman begins to destroy thousands of demons. Lakshmana kills Indrajit's charioteer. Four excellent monkey-chiefs kill Indrajit's horses and destroy his chariot.

Indrajit goes back to Lanka and brings another chariot with him. With renewed enthusiasm, he began striking down the monkeys by the thousands, causing the survivors to take shelter near Lakshmana. Then Lakshmana broke indrajit's bow in half, and pierced his chest with five arrows. In the fierce fighting that followed, Lakshmana flared up in anger and beheaded Indrajit's driver, throwing the horses into confusion. Indrajit strikes three arrows in Lakshmana's forehead and Lakshmana strikes five arrows on Indrajit's face. When Indrajit strikes Vibhishana with arrows, Vibhishana kills Indrajit's horses with his club. Fitting a missile presided over by Indra the lord of celestials, Lakshmana addressed a prayer on Rama and discharged it towards Indrajit. Indrajit's head gets chopped off and falls to the ground. Witnessing Indrajit's death, all the monkey-chiefs, Vibhishana, Hanuman and Jambavan applaud Lakshmana. Lakshmana and Vibhishana approach Rama and inform him that Indrajit's head has been chopped off. Rama was delighted with the news and embraces him.

Questions:

- What is a vanara?
- Who was Kumbhakarna? Why was he always sleeping?
- What is pushpaka chariot?
- Who shot off Kumbhakarna's head?

- Ravana was a great, powerful rakshasa who had even conquered even the gods. What did he think Rama was?
- Who was Rama really?
- What was Ravana's chief fault?
- What special power did Indrajit have that made him hard to fight against?
- What powerful weapon did Indrajit use?
- What are the four herbs Hanuman was looking for? What did each do?
- Did Hanuman find the herbs he was looking for?
- Why was Indrajit always using a sacrificial fire? Did it make him powerful?
- Was Indrajit a valiant warrior? A great warrior? What was his ultimate fate?

Achyutashtakam

Achyutam Keshavam Rama Narayanam

Krishna Damodaram Vasudevam Hari

Shri Dharam Madhavam Gopika Vallabham

Janaki Nayakam Ramachandram Bhaje (1)

Achyutam Keshavam Satyabha Madhavam

Madhavam Shri Dharam Radhika Radhitam

Indira Mandiram Chetasa Sundaram

Devakinandanam Nandajam Sandadhe (2)

Vishnave Jishnave Sankhine Chakrine

Rukmini raagine Janaki janaye

Vallavi vallabha yarchita yatmane

Kamsavi dhvansine Vansine Te Namah (3)

Krishna Govinda He Rama Narayana

Shripate Vasudev aachyuta Shrinidhe

Achyutananda He Madhavaa dhokshajam

Dvarakanayaka Draupadi rakshaka (4)

Rakshasa sobhitah Siitaya Sobhito

Dandakaa ranyabhu Punyata Kaaranah

Lakshmane naanvito Vaanarai Sevito

Agastya Sam pujito radhava Paatu Maam (5)

Dhenuka ristaka nista kri ddveshiha

Keshiha Kansahru dvansikavadakah

Putanakopakah Surajakhelano

Balagopalaka Paatu Maam Sarvada (6)

Vidyudu dyotavat Prasphurad vaasasam

Pravidam bhodavat Prollasad vighram

Vanyayaa Malaya Sobhito rahsthalam

Lohitan ghrivayam Varijaksham Bhaje (7)

Kunchitaih Kuntalairbh raajamaanaanam

Ratnamau lim Lasat kundalam Gandayoh

Harakey urakam Kankanaaproyjvalam

Kinkini manjulam Shyamalam Tam Bhaje (8)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFpVxy6jNPM>

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

A P H R S

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M I B L

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O H T C R

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E V I K N O

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U L B C

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O E H R S

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E E C F R I

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L I E H N A

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I S I S M N O

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R B E H

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Coloring exercise

