

Lord Sri Rama



Stotra :

**Sri Rama Rama Rameti
Rame Raame Manorame
Sahasra Nama Tat Tulyam
Rama Nama Varanane**

***Lord Shiva told this shloka to Parvati - I meditate upon Sri Ram as Sri Rama Rama Rama,
the thrice Recital of Rama's name is equal to Recitation of the thousand names of
Lord Vishnu***

Sri Rama is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, an avatar, meaning he was God who lived in a human body to show us the way for right living. His various names are - Ramachandra, Raghunatha, Sitapati, Saketha Rama, Raghava. He is known for his Truthfulness and always following the Dharma (the righteous path). No description of Rama is complete without mentioning Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman. Sita is the wife of Lord Rama, Lakshmana His inseparable brother, and His greatest devotee is Hanuman.

Rama is considered the ideal man. His story is told in the famous work called the Ramayana. For uncounted thousands of years, millions of men have used Rama as the ideal for life, and millions of women have considered His wife Sita as the ideal for womanhood.

Principles of Rama's life:

- 1. Dharma (follow the right path)**
- 2. Truth (honesty, good faith, sincerity)**
- 3. Love for His devotees**
- 4. Protection of the weak and innocent**
- 5. Devotion to parents and guru**

Story:

Once there was a great and good king named Dasaratha. He ruled over the kingdom of Ayodhya with his three queens – Kausalya, Sumitra, and Kaikeyi.

One time Dasaratha was in a big battle. He fell down unconscious. Fortunately, his wife Kaikeyi was there in the chariot with him. She revived him, which allowed him to win the battle. He was so grateful he gave her a boon – he said he would give her anything she wanted. She requested that she be able to ask him later what she wanted.

Dasaratha had four sons – Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata, and Shatrugna. Rama was the oldest son. Everyone loved Rama. Dasaratha decided one day to crown Rama as King so he could retire.

An evil thought entered Kaikeyi's mind. "I don't want Rama to be King, I want my own son Bharata to be King." This was very unfair to Rama, because everyone, even Kaikeyi's son Bharata wanted Rama to be King. But she wanted her son only to be King. So she went to Dasaratha. She reminded him that he had promised to give her anything she wanted when she helped him on the battlefield. She demanded that he make her son Bharata as King instead of Rama, and send Rama to live in the forest.

Dasaratha thought this was a very bad idea. But what could he do? He had made a promise and he never spoke untruth. So he agreed.

Rama, who should have been made to be King the next day, was told by his father that he had to go to the forest. What do you think Rama told the King?

He told his father he was happy to obey any request from his father and mothers. Furthermore, when he went to live in the forest, he was just as happy as he had been when living in luxury in the palace!

Questions:

What made Dasaratha great?

What made Dasaratha good?

Why did he send Rama to the forest?

Why did Rama agree to go to the forest?

Was Rama more happy in the palace or in the forest? Why?

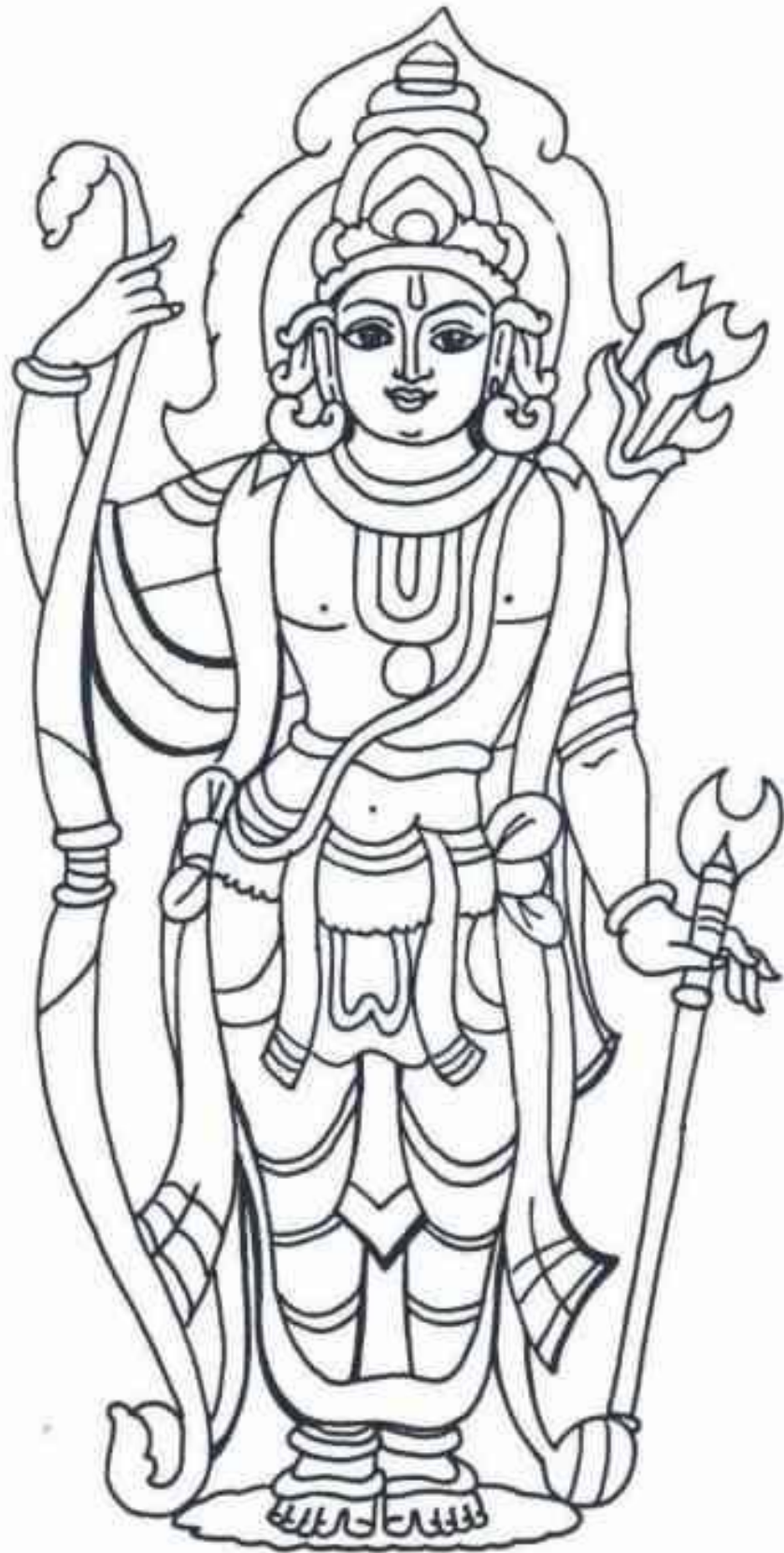
Sri Rama Navami

The birth of Lord Rama is celebrated all over India as Sri Rama Navami festival. Sri Rama Navami occurs in the month of March or April.

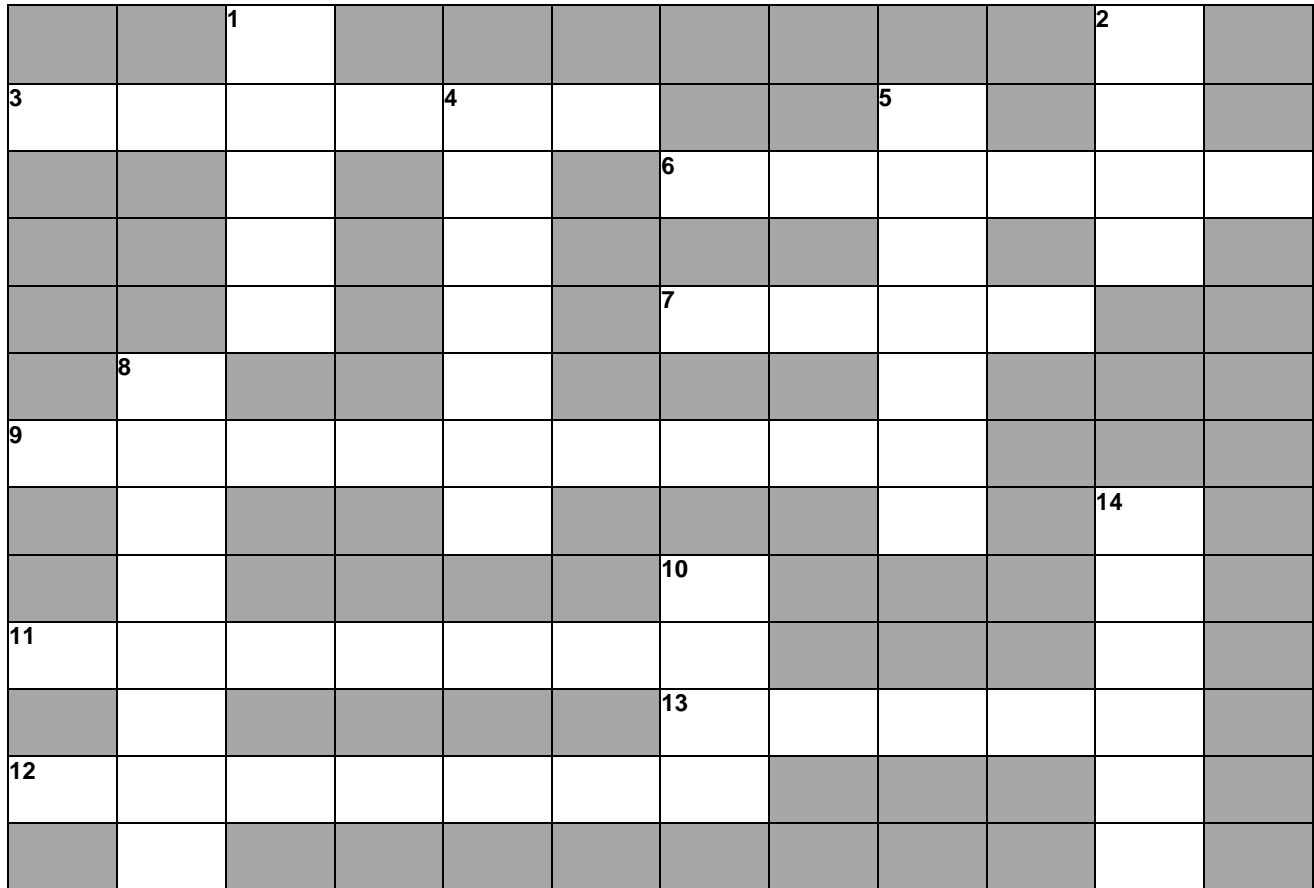
Celebrations begin with a prayer to the Sun early in the morning. At midday, when Lord Rama is supposed to have been born, a special prayer is performed.

Some parts of India, an event that draws popular participation is the Rama Navami procession. The main attraction in this procession is a gaily decorated chariot in which four persons are dressed up as Rama, his brother Lakshman, his queen Sita and his disciple Hanuman.

The festival is also celebrated by performing Sita and Rama's Kalyanam (wedding) at Temples by Priests as - Birth of Rama is for Loka Kalyanam (to bring peace and prosperity to the world).



CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- 3 Rama went on his father's order
- 6 One of Rama's principles
- 7 Number of sons Dasaratha had
- 9 Rama's father
- 11 Bharatha's mother
- 12 Rama's kingdom
- 13 One should always speak

DOWN

- 1 Rama's weapon
- 2 Lakshmana's Big brother
- 4 Lakshmana's mother
- 5 Rama's great devotee
- 8 Rama's mother
- 10 Sri Rama's wife
- 14 Rama is an incarnation of