

## RAMA, THE SYMBOL OF HUMAN PERFECTION IN R. K. NARAYANAN'S "RAMAYANA"

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### ABSTRACT

Culture and tradition have passed from generation to generation through literature in the form of folklores and epics. In Hinduism, the two great Epics are the best examples for the perfection. In these epics, *Ramayana* shows how a person should live, the *Mahabharata* shows, how the people should not live. In the epic, personas were presented as the hero who can fulfil the discrimination of virtue, perfection, firm of his vows and being kind to every creature in this world. Here, the prominent epic *Ramayana* by R. K. Narayanan's character Rama is the best example for the human perfection. *Ramayana* is the epic of humanity. Humanity does not mean mankind but that which particularly characterizes human nature. Rama is the paragon of humanity, majestic feature of bodily personality, the ideal perfection of physiological structure, beauty of understanding and dignity of behaviour. He is considered as the time honoured symbol of the perfect man with generous, merciful, the master of his emotions and a valiant warrior. So, in the great epic *Ramayana*, Rama is the symbol of human perfection.

**KEYWORDS:** Perfection, Humanity, Dignity, Honoured Symbol, Valiant Warrior

R. K. Narayanan portrays Rama as the symbol of human perfection in his work *Ramayana*. Rama is the incarnation of lord Vishnu. In the family of Iskhvahu race, he took his birth as Rama. Even though he is like as the almighty, he faces all the struggles as a lay man and led his life as a perfect human being and is the best example to the whole world to the present generation and to the future generation. The king Dasharatha had no child. Through the advice of sage Vasistha; he pleased sage Rishya Singar to do yagya. Then, Vishnu was born as Rama. From the childhood, he grew as a kind hearted, dedicated child. As a student, he is the best and shows his love towards his brother. For the sibling bond, still he is the best role model to the present and future generations. After his Gurukula education, he did many superficial deeds. Then he married the most excellent woman, Sita, who is blessed with a miracle of loveliness and she is the incarnation of Lakshmi. Here, Rama lived and proved himself as the best symbol of the human perfection. Rama was portrayed in each and every scene as the best structure of humanity, perfection, virtue, husband, brother, son, king and as a valiant warrior.

"Why are you not dressed yet for the coronation?"

"My father has decided to crown bharatha as the king",

Rama said simply

Rama said, "For my own good, my father has another

Command; it is for my progress and spiritual welfare". (106)

Rama proved himself as the best respectable son to his father. After his marriage, the coronation was planned, but

due to the sudden twist by his mother Kaikeyi, he had to move to the forest for fourteen years. But without any quarrel with his father, he accepted his order and moved to the forest. Here, he shows himself as a goodly son and make his father's word as true. With him, Sita and Lakshmana went to the forest. There, they met many sages and got the blessings and they did many favors to them. Finally, they took shelter in Panchavadi and destroyed many demons and monsters. Meanwhile, by his cunning plan, Ravana kidnapped Sita to his place which is located in Sri Lanka. Then, the searching of Sita was started by Rama. He had met so many obstacles to reach his wife and finally had the friendship with Sugreeva. Then, he shows the importance of promise and his friendship. To protect the good, he hides himself behind the tree and killed the king Vali. Then, he said that his primary duty is to help the helpless and destroy the evils. So, he helped him and Rama gave the throne of Kishkindha to Sugreeva.

“Since Sugreeva sought my friendship and asked for help,

I felt it my duty to help him by destroying you”.

“It is my primary duty to help the weak and destroy evil

Whatever I see it. Whether known or unknown, I help those

That seeks my help”. (191)

Rama waited for the information about his beloved Sita. As a husband, he felt sad and shows his true affection; the real separation between the couple was shown here by Rama. He was worried for his own mistake and said that he has shelter in Sugreeva's palace but his Sita is in the untold sufferings somewhere. These all shows Rama as a perfect husband and his love towards his wife. Hanuman found the Sita's place and they built the bridge in the middle of the ocean and they reached Sri Lanka. The war started between Rama and Ravana. In that war, Ravana's son Indirajith send the Nagasthira on Lakshmana; in that he lost his breath. Here, Rama's utterings show his the real caring and love on his brother.

At the end of this engagement Ravana was

Sorely wounded, his crown was shattered, and his chariot

Was broken. Helplessly, bare-handed, he stood before

Rama and Rama said,” you may go now and come back

Tomorrow with fresh weapons”. (239)

In the battle between the Rama and Ravana, Ravana lost his weapons and his crown was shattered. So, Rama proved himself as a valiant kind hearted warrior. Here, in the war field, the Dharma was protected by Rama and he saved the ethics and the norms of war. Again, the battle was staled and in the final day Rama had a chariot and the two quires full of rare arrows from the god Indra. Finally, Ravana was defeated by Rama. Here, because of Rama following the Dharma, god showered his blessings and helped him. Then, Mandothiri, wife of Ravana, pleaded him for his burial. Rama explored his humanity and kindness character and gave respect for the funeral of Ravana, and proved him as the best king.

Rama accepted the explanation,” honour him and cherish

His memory so that his spirit may go to heaven, where

Has his place. And now I will leave you to attend to his funeral

Arrangement, befitting his grandeur". (256)

There he gave the throne to the Ravana's brother Vibhishna and saved Sita. The task was done and he have fulfilled his mission. All his efforts had been not to attain his or her personal satisfaction but for the vindicate honour of the Iskhvahu race and to honour their ancestors. Here, Rama was shown as saving the dignity of his family. After that, he sees his father and said that was his boon and nothing more to seek for him. Now, his desire was filled. By the Puspaga Vimana, they reached Ayodhiya.

Rama explained," it was not her mistake. I committed on  
Unforgivable blender in straightway accepting the kingship  
When you offered it, without pausing to consider the  
Consequences. I should have had more for thought. It was not her mistake". (261)

After the arrival of Rama to Ayodhiya, Kaikeyi pleaded him to forgive her for all the deeds, but he said that it was his mistake for accepting the throne, he should have consulted with others so he took that mistake as him. This shows his kindness character and he proved himself as the best son and not as a showy person. His punctuality saves Bharatha's life. Finally, author concludes by the Rama's coronation. Here, Rama's life was the best example to all the human being and he lived and proved as the symbol of human perfection.

## CONCLUSIONS

The life of Rama shows him as the symbol of the perfect man, generosity, merciful, the master of his emotions. Rama is the best symbol of the human perfection. Not only in his time, but also to the present and future generations, he is the best example as a human with noble character. Each and every human being in this world wants to be in his own dignity, that dignity makes him and creates him as a divine statue to the world. Thus, Rama's life explores social values and ethics to the society.

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