



SRIMAD RAMAYANA

(based on the teachings of Srihashyam Appalacharya Swamy) -
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Being *Gunava:n* – Part I

“Who is the *gunava:n* (one who possessed the Divine virtues) ?”, asked *Va:Imi:ki*. He put forth this question to *Na:rada*, to know if such qualified human (*gunava:n*) existed on this earth.

Guna:s mean virtuous qualities. *Va:Imi:ki* questioned about ‘the *gunava:n*’. Here, only one quality stands out amongst the rest. Our elders told us that this quality is ‘*sausi:lyam*’. If a person is superior in birth, knowledge and wealth etc, and still mingles with all others, without any inhibitions, he is said to be *susi:la* and this *dharma* is *sausi:lyam*.

In *Sa:sthras*, *Sausi:lyam* is defined as:

‘*mahathaha mandaissaha
ne:randhre:na samsle:shaha
sausi:lyam*’

Although *Sri Ra:ma* was remarkably superior by birth, lineage, knowledge and wealth, he freely mixed with all. Never would he let others feel inferior to him in any way. This is the primary characteristic required for a human being to be truly humane. In fact, a person devoid of this quality should not be considered as a human being at all.

We feel that we are this body

and thus, we attribute all the features of the body to ourselves. We take pride in them. This misconception is termed as *asurathvam*, quality of an *asura* or a wicked person. The quality of a human being, i.e., *Ma:navathvam*, is to be humble. A human being should not be conceited with the features originating with the body such as birth, lineage, wealth etc.

Sri Ra:ma belonged to the royal lineage of *Su:rya*, called *Su:rya Vamsa*. A great scholar in all the *Ve:das* and *Upave:das* like archery; son of the king amongst kings, such a one was *Sri Ra:ma*. None could equal him in noble qualities. Despite of all this, he chose a simple tribal boat man, a *va:nara* (monkey) and a *ra:kshasa* (demon) for his three closest friends. The first was *Guha*. The other two, i.e., *Sugri:va* and *Vibhi:shana*, were not even human beings.

When we observe how *Sri Ra:ma* treated each one of these, we will understand the subtle aspects of the quality, ‘*sausi:lya*’. Then, we can apply it in our lives.

Guha lived in the village called *Sringiberapuram*, situated on the banks of river *Ganga*. While going to the forest, *Sri Ra:ma* along with *Si:tha* and *Lakshmana* went to this village. Before *Guha* could offer worship to

Sri Ra:ma with *arghya-pa:dyam* (water to wash the hands and feet), *Sri Ra:ma* said,

"*architha:schaiva hrustha:scha*"

"O Friend! We have already been worshipped. We are happy." He also explained the reason as to how He had already received the worship before being actually worshipped. *Sri Ra:ma* said,

"*padbhya: abhi ma:ga: chchaiva sne:ha sandarsane: na cha*"

"*Guha!* You came forward walking to me. You showed great love, what more is required for worship?" *Sri Ra:ma* embraced *Guha* and said, "Oh, friend, you are dear to my heart; you are a true friend to me."

Is *Guha* equal to *Sri Ra:ma* in any respect? But *Sri Ra:ma* regarded him so. He mingled with *Guha* without any reservations and acknowledged this fact to the world. This quality of giving equal respect to others is *Sausi:lya*.

Sri Ra:ma's relationship with two other close friends will be discussed in the next issue.

Jai Srimannarayana !

What is the Age of Universe ?

It is fascinating to see how certain calculations made using modern science confirm the conclusions of *Ve:das*. For example, the age of our Solar System. What top NASA brains published with the help of Hubble Space telescope and complex mathematical equations, could be readily found in *Ve:das*.

The age of *Kali Yuga* = 4,32,000 human years

The age of *Dwa:para Yuga* = 2x age of *Kali Yuga*

The age of *Thre:tha Yuga* = 3x age of *Kali Yuga*

The age of *Krutha Yuga* = 4x age of *Kali Yuga*

The sum of all these ages (*Yuga:s*) is $(1+2+3+4) \times 4,32,000 = 10 \times 4,32,000 = 4.32$ million human years. Let us call this, a *Maha: Yuga*.

During one daytime of *Bramha* (12 hours), *Veda:s* say, he sees 1000 such *Maha:yugas*. So, *Bramha* works for $4.32 \text{ million} \times 1000 = 4.32$ billion years before he goes for rest at night.

That is the age of our Solar System. When *Bramha* sleeps at night, the Universe is dissolved into pores on the body of *Maha:Vishnu*.

It is said that NASA had some parallax error. NASA concluded that it is 4.5 billion years old instead.