

RAMAYANAM

The Power of *Ra:ma Na:ma*

Sri: Ra:ma is the Lord Himself, who decided to take the form of a human being with His Consort *Sri:* on this Earth to establish the conduct of a good human being as explained in the *Ve:das* as 'good practices combined with good knowledge'. Many of His servants and devotees were born as human beings and monkeys. All of them showed us how to lead our lives in a happy way and at the same time, striving to bring happiness to the society. *Ra:ma* and His subjects showed us how the true goal of life can be attained while leading common life.

In the celestial abode called *Bramhalo:ka*, *Sri:mad Ra:ma:yana* consists of it seems one hundred crores of *slo:kas*. However, the demi-gods decided that it should be brought down to earth in a more concise form such that its wisdom could be made available to all human beings. For that purpose, *Na:rada* came to earth seeking out a suitable person to take upon this task.

He found that *Va:lmi:ki* had attained enlightenment by chanting the Holy name of *Ra:ma*, but did not know who *Ra:ma* was. When *Na:rada* approached him, he found that *Va:lmi:ki* was depressed for not knowing who *Ra:ma* was. *Va:lmi:ki* asked *Na:rada* -

thapasswa:dhya:ya niratham
thapaswi: va:gvida:m varam |
na:radam paripaprachcha
va:lmi:ki muni pungavam ||

This became the first *slo:kam* of *Sri: Ra:ma:yana*. The first hundred *slo:kas* contain the whole story of *Sri:Ra:ma:yana* as revealed by *Na:rada* to *Va:lmi:ki*.

Buddhi or common sense is an important instrument that guides a man's decisions in selecting the good and eliminating the bad. If it has to work perfectly it should be freed from the domination of '*rajas*' and '*thamas*'. Sage *Va:lmi:ki* attained a crystal clear '*buddhi*' because of the incessant chanting of the holy name of *Ra:ma*.

The two letters in the word '*Ra:ma*' are very powerful. The first letter '*Ra*', like a holy fire, burns false ego, known as *ahamka:ra*, and also false attachment, known as *mamaka:ra*. The letter '*ma*' enables one to attain the all pervasive, supreme happiness, the Lord Himself. Constant chanting of the name '*Ra:ma*', blessed *Va:lmi:ki* with the correct vision to experience the Lord in himself and in every thing else. He was able to feel the bliss through this holy name. But, he was still dissatisfied as he eagerly wished to know 'who *Ra:ma* was?', so that, he could share the true power of this *Manthra* with the entire world!

Jai Srimannarayana !

