

**Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa**  
**As Taught by Swami Dayananda Saraswati**

*This is the tenth part of the serial article, continuation from March 2022 newsletter.*

पौरैरनुगतो दूरं पित्रा दशरथेन च ॥ १-१-२८

शृङ्गवेरपुरे सूतं गङ्गाकूले व्यसर्जयत् । गुहमासाद्य धर्मात्मा निषादाधिपतिं प्रियम् ॥ १-१-२९

*paurairanugato dūraṁ pitrā daśarathena ca ॥ 1-1-28*

*śṛṅgaverapure sūtaṁ gaṅgākūle vyasarjayat ।*

*guhamaśadya dharmātmā niṣādādhīpatiṁ priyam ॥ 1-1-29*

Those who lived in the city of Ayodhya, all the citizens, led by Dasharatha, Rama's father, followed their beloved prince's chariot away from the city. He took the chariot because the people and the tradition would not allow him to walk, and Rama knew it was best not to delay. When they arrived at Shringavera on the banks of Ganga, Rama dismissed the chariot and driver. The populace, having followed him this long distance, turned back, and the threesome proceeded to the forest.

ते वनेन वनं गत्वा नदीस्तीर्त्वा बहूदकाः ॥ १-१-३०

चित्रकूटमनुप्राप्य भरद्वाजस्य शासनात् । रम्यमावसथं कृत्वा रममाणा वने त्रयः ॥ १-१-३१

देवगन्धर्वसंकाशास्तत्र ते न्यवसन् सुखम् । चित्रकूटं गते रामे पुत्रशोकातुरस्तदा ॥ १-१-३२

राजा दशरथः स्वर्गं जगाम विलपन् सुतम् । गते तु तस्मिन् भरतो वसिष्ठप्रमुखैद्विजैः ॥ १-१-३३

*te vanena vanaṁ gatvā nadīstīrtvā bahūdakaḥ ॥ 1-1-30*

*citrakūṭamanuprāpya bharadvājasya śāsanāt ।*

*ramyamāvasathanṁ kṛtvā ramamāṇā vane trayāḥ ॥ 1-1-31*

*devagandharvasaṅkāśāstatra te nyavasān sukham ।*

*citrakūṭaṁ gate rāme putraśokāturastadā ॥ 1-1-32*

*rājā daśarathaḥ svargaṁ jagāma vilapan sutam ।*

*gate tu tasmin bharato vasiṣṭhāpramukhairdvijaiḥ ॥ 1-1-33*

Rama, *dharmātmā*, the one committed to *dharma*, met Guha, a chieftain of the local hunters, at Shringavera on the banks of the Ganges. Guha was a great devo-

tee of Rama, and he joined the party of three during their time in Shringavera. Leaving Guha behind, Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana, walking forest after forest, crossing the deep and wide rivers by boats, met Bharadvaja. Upon his advice they proceeded to the beautiful forest of Citrakuta, where Lakshmana built a pleasant cottage of wood and grass for their abode. To see these three young royals, three who appear as though they were celestials descended from the heavens, in a place where there were hunters and monkeys, would surprise anyone. They lived there happily for some time.

Remember that this is the brief version of Rama's life that Narada is telling to Valmiki. In the main text, the beauty and wonder of Citrakuta will be told in verse after verse. As Rama reached Citrakuta, Dasharatha, because of the sadness born of the loss of his son, being himself the cause for his son's banishment to the forest, having spent his final days talking to himself about his son, went to heaven; he fell ill and died with Rama's name in his mouth. In the palace, the ministers and advisers who guided the kingdom were headed by the great sage Vasishtha. These Brahmans in the court of Dasharatha sent word for Bharata to come home and be crowned king. Bharata thought that some day he would attend his brother Rama's coronation, and now his beloved brother has been banished and he himself was to become the king. Bharata was shocked. The description of Bharata's shock covers verse after verse. Bharata screamed and shouted at his mother. He did not know what to do; he was helpless.

*To be continued ...*

“Situational happiness will always be relative. Every situation has two sides; one side is fine, but the other one is not. This being the case, there is no way of solving the problem of sadness by any situational change.”

- Swami Dayananda Saraswati