

Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa
As Taught by Swami Dayananda Saraswati

This is the twenty ninth part of the serial article, continuation from Dec 2023 newsletter.

दृष्ट्वा परमसत्कारैः पूज्जार्हमपूजयत् । ततस्तामुषितो रात्रिं सह पुत्रैर्महात्मभिः ॥ १-७३-७
प्रभाते पुनरुत्थाय कृत्वा कर्माणि तत्त्ववित् । ऋषींस्तदा पुरस्कृत्य यज्ञवाटमुपागमत् ॥ १-७३-८
युक्ते मुहूर्ते विजये सर्वाभरणभूषितैः । भ्रातृभिः सहितो रामः कृतकौतुकमङ्गलः ॥ १-७३-९
वसिष्ठं पुरतः कृत्वा महर्षीनपरानपि । वशिष्ठो भगवानेत्य वैदेहमिदमब्रवीत् ॥ १-७३-१०
राजा दशरथो राजन् कृतकौतुकमङ्गलैः । पुत्रैर्नरवरश्रेष्ठो दातारमभिकाङ्क्षते ॥ १-७३-११
दातृप्रतिग्रहीतृभ्यां सर्वार्थाः सम्भवन्ति हि । स्वधर्मं प्रतिपद्यस्व कृत्वा वैवाह्यमुत्तमम् ॥ १-७३-१२
इत्युक्तः परमोदारो वसिष्ठेन महात्मना । प्रत्युवाच महातेजा वाक्यं परमधर्मवित् ॥ १-७३-१३
ततः सीतां समानीय सर्वाभरणभूषिताम् । समक्षमग्नेः संस्थाप्य राघवाभिमुखे तदा ॥ १-७३-२५
अब्रवीत्जनको राजा कौसल्यानन्दवर्धनम् । १-७३-२६

dr̥ṣṭvā paramasatkāraih pūjñārhamapūjayat |
tatastāmuṣito rātrim saha putrairmahātmabhiḥ || 1-73-7
prabhāte punarutthāya kṛtvā karmāṇi tattoavit |
ṛṣīmstadā puraskṛtya yajñavāṭamupāgamat || 1-73-8
yukte muhūrte vijaye sarvābharanabhūṣitaiḥ |
bhrāṭṛbhiḥ sahito rāmaḥ kṛtakautukamaṅgalaḥ || 1-73-9
vasiṣṭham purataḥ kṛtvā maharṣīnaparānapi |
vasiṣṭho bhagavānetya vaidehamidamabravīt || 1-73-10
rājā daśaratho rājan kṛtakautukamangalaiḥ |
putrairnaravaraśreṣṭho dātāramabhikāṅkṣate || 1-73-11
dātṛpratigrāhītṛbhyāṁ sarvārthāḥ sambhavanti hi |
svadharmam pratipadyasva kṛtvā vaivāhyamuttamam || 1-73-12
ityuktaḥ paramodāro vasiṣṭhena mahātmanā |
pratyuvāca mahātejā vākyam paramadharmavit || 1-73-13
tataḥ sītām samānīya sarvābharanabhūṣitām |
samakṣamagneḥ samsthāpya rāghavābhimukhe tadā || 1-73-25
abravītjanako rājā kausalyānandavardhanam |1-73-26

Rama and his brothers, resplendent in the traditional dress of the groom, along with their father, and with the *mahārṣis* all around, were invited by Janaka to enter the assembly. Then Janaka brought in his family, and the girls were led to the foot of the fire altar. The words of the *śāstra* that sanctify the marriage and invoke the timeless tradition of the people were begun. Sita, as fine as Lakshmi, goddess of all wealth and propriety, as though she had just emerged from that lotus, as though she had slipped away from

the lap of Lord Vishnu, as brilliant as lightning, with eyes shining, her long black wavy hair bound and braided with fragrant blossoms, wearing an exquisite light-yellow silk sari embroidered with sacred swans and colorfully matched with a scarlet shawl, truly a goddess, stood near the altar, her eyes lowered before her lord.

इयं सीता मम सुता सहधर्मचरी तव ॥ १-७३-२६

प्रतीच्छ चैनां भद्रं ते पाणिं गृह्णीष्व पाणिना । पतिव्रता महभागा छायेवानुगता सदा ॥ १-७३-२७

इत्युक्त्वा प्राक्शिपद् राजा मन्त्रपूतं जलं तदा । साधु साध्विति देवानामृषीणां वदतां तदा ॥ १-७३-२८

देवदुन्दुभिनिर्घोषः पुष्पवर्षो महानभूत् । एवं दत्त्वा सुतां सीतां मन्त्रोदकपुरस्कृताम् ॥ १-७३-२९

अब्रवीज्जनको राजा हर्षेणाभिपरिप्लुतः । लक्ष्मणागच्छ भद्रं ते ऊर्मिलामुद्यतां मया ॥ १-७३-३०

प्रतीच्छ पाणिं गृह्णीष्व मा भूत् कालस्य पर्ययः । तमेवमुक्त्वा जनको भरतं चाभ्यभाषत ॥ १-७३-३१

गृहाण पाणिं माण्डव्याः पाणिना रघुनन्दन । शत्रुघ्नं चापि धर्मात्मा अब्रवीन्मिथिलेश्वरः ॥ १-७३-३२

श्रुतकीर्तेर्महाबाहो पाणिं गृह्णीष्व पाणिना । सर्वे भवन्तः सौम्याश्च सर्वे सुचरितव्रताः ॥ १-७३-३३

iyam sītā mama sutā sahadharmacarī tava ॥ 1-73-26

pratīccha cainām bhadrām te pāṇim gṛhṇīṣva pāṇinā ।

pativrata mahabhāgā chāyevānugatā sadā ॥ 1-73-27

ityuktvā prākśīpad rājā mantrapūtaṁ jalam tadā ।

sādhu sādhwiti devānāmṛṣiṇām vadatām tadā ॥ 1-73-28

devadundubhinirghoṣaḥ puṣpavarṣo mahānabhūt ।

evam dattvā sutām sītām mantrodakapuraskṛtām ॥ 1-73-29

abravījjanako rājā harṣeṇābhipariplutaḥ ।

lakṣmaṇāgaccha bhadrām te ūrmilāmudyatām mayā ॥ 1-73-30

pratīccha pāṇim gṛhṇīṣva mā bhūt kālasya paryayaḥ ।

tamevamuktvā janako bharataṁ cābhyabhāṣata ॥ 1-73-31

gṛhāṇa pāṇim māṇḍavyāḥ pāṇinā raghunandana ।

śatrughnaṁ cāpi dharmātmā abravīnmithileśvaraḥ ॥ 1-73-32

śrutakīrtermahābāho pāṇim gṛhṇīṣva pāṇinā ।

sarve bhavantaḥ saumyāśca sarve sucaritavratāḥ ॥ 1-73-33

These are the words that finalize the union. “This Sita, my daughter, will be your companion in the life of *dharma*. She will be your partner, and thereby your path will not be lonely. She will, like your willing shadow, share in your joys and sorrows. Please receive her and be happy. Take her hand and hold it in yours. Your joy she will see as her own joy. She is *mahābhāga*, and all *bhāgya* she will bring to you.” With the water purified by the chanting of *mantras*, Janaka sprinkled his children. *To be continued...*

Due to printing space constraint in this month's newsletter, we could not publish the serial article “**Mahābhārata As Taught by Swami Dayananda Saraswati**” this month.

- Editor