

## Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa As Taught by Swami Dayananda Saraswati

This is the fifth part of the serial article, continuation from October 2021 newsletter.

श्रुत्वा चैतत्रिलोकज्ञो वाल्मीकेनारदो वचः । श्रूयतामिति चामन्त्र्य प्रहृष्टो वाक्यमब्रवीत् ॥ १-१-६

*śrutvā caitatrilokajñō vālmīkernārado vacaḥ | śrūyatāmiti cāmantrya prahr̥ṣṭo vākyaṁabravīt || 1-1-6*

Narada immediately answered. Narada is the one who knows whatever happens in the three worlds - *trilokajñāḥ*. He moves about and never remains in one place for a long time. Narada was that great traveler. He had the information of all the three worlds. He knew all the news. If he came to a court the king would receive him, give him a seat, offer him salutations, and later ask him, “What news?” Narada was a great courier. Any traveler will have great stories to tell, and Narada was a great storyteller as well as a great trouble shooter.

It seems that Narada was waiting for Valmiki to ask - as if Narada knew what was to come. He wanted Valmiki to write this Ramayana, the story of Rama. Narada was happy, *prahr̥ṣṭaḥ*, when Valmiki asked this question. Narada had decided that Valmiki would be the author qualified to write this story. It was Valmiki who, while being encased in the anthill, had repeated Rama’s name for years without knowing what it was. Having heard Valmiki’s question, Narada answered. Drawing Valmiki’s attention, Narada told him to listen, and he said these words without allowing any time for Valmiki to change his ideas – double *ca* is there. Narada saw the time was right and he spoke.

बहवो दुर्लभाश्चैव ये त्वया कीर्तिता गुणाः । मुने वक्ष्याम्यहम् बुद्ध्वा तैर्युक्तः श्रूयतां नरः ॥ १-१-७

*bahavo durlabhāścaiva ye tvayā kīrtitā guṇāḥ |*

*mune vakṣyāmyahaṁ buddhvā tairyuktaḥ śrūyatāṁ naraḥ || 1-1-7*

“Hey, *muni*, saint, let me tell you, those various qualities which you mentioned, those *guṇas* which you look for in one man, are many, *bahavaḥ*. They are rare qualities, *durlabhaḥ*- seldom found in one person. In most men if one virtue is there another is lacking. These virtues are not easy to procure, much less all found in one man. They are difficult to acquire. But, knowing very well who is that man endowed, *naraḥ yuktaḥ*, with those qualities, I am going to tell you, *vakṣyāmi*. Please listen. There is one who is born in the family of Ishvaku, a man named Rama.

*To be continued...*