

# Valmiki's Ram: A Personification Of Righteousness And Moral Development

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## Abstract:

Valmiki's Ram is an incarnation of lord Vishnu in human form. Rama's journey is imbued with symbolism. In Hindu Mythology life of lord Ram is a treasure that conceptualises and discerns the world with the idea of life. Rama's life is much more complex than a battle between good or evil. He is an exemplar who takes birth to incorporate both mortals and immortals. Rama is symbolised as 'Superior being' or the 'Enlightenment'. He takes life as it comes to him. He deals with his situations with his conduct. He is a virtuous human who adorns himself with his self control. He gives us solutions for our every question. He guides us how to live our life, how to triumph over desires and how to achieve inner peace. This paper pulls us back to our roots to push us forward in terms of morality and reality and to teach us that some things are not outdated but they are the

fundamentals of life. In modern times we all face dilemmas and fall prey to stress depression as we don't know how to deal with them. Ram through his journey tells us and sails us through these dilemmas by following virtues.

**Keywords :** Enlightenment, dharma, purushotam, virtue.

### **Introduction:**

The Ramayana is a sacred text of Hinduism. It is the story of Rama fighting the darkness (ignorance) with the light of virtue. The entire journey of Ram and his companions symbolically discusses duties, rights and social responsibilities of an individual. As a human, God Ram epitomizes the characteristics of an optimal person. He is considered as the sinew of dharma. He emphasises that one must pursue and live fully with a vision. He amalgamates awareness with actions which means we should be accountable for our actions. He teaches us that we should have control over our senses and we should come to a union of heart and head. Knowing Ram helps us interpret reality, solve problems and improvise our social behaviour. His story pervades the fabric of social life of the people As A.C. MacDonnell says “Probably no work of world literature, secular in its origin, has ever produced so profound an influence on the life and thought of the people as the Ramayana” The character of Ram is a storehouse of values. The values are deep seated in him and are universal and give us a positive solution to the problems or crisis of today. These crises are the odds in one's character and values. This paper is a humble attempt to highlight the mores of Rama through portrayal of his unusual valour, righteous heart and benevolence of mind by representing him as a moral guide, a problem solver and a human who with his endeavour becomes a living legend and a then a God. He is Purushottam and bears all the qualities which a man needs to possess in terms of morality. He overcomes all hardships of his life but doesn't lose his truth and virtue.

### **Analysis:**

Valmiki's Ram is not a supernatural being; he is a human with shortcomings and encounters moral dilemmas but who overcomes these by adhering to the righteous way of cosmic law. He is born for a purpose as we all are born for a cause. Valmiki's Ramayana states that all Devas pray to God Vishnu to relieve the world from Ravana's atrocities and Lord Vishnu replies as :- "Dismiss your fear : for you dear sake In battle will I smite him dead The cruel fiend, the immortal's dread.

Then, in the world of mortal men,  
Ten thousand years and hundreds ten  
I as a human king will reign,  
And guard the earth as my domain"

Canto XIV (Page 83-84)

This shows that Rama is an incarnation of God Vishnu in human form and is born to kill Ravana .But the main purpose of his birth as a 'Man' is to teach the world how a man should live righteously adhering to Dharma, which makes him an inspiration for mankind. Being an incarnation he leads his life as humanly as possible. He doesn't use any magical spell or not use a snap of finger to remove the obstacles or hardships rather face them with strong will and virtue. Today, we are facing all sorts of hardships and fall prey to negativity and mortification and expect some mighty creature will come from the sky and give us the way. Lord Ram tells us that it's we who can solve our problems with patience and look for solutions in a righteous way. Valmiki's Ram is a man who possesses all the qualities which a human should have. The first and foremost quality of man is being sensitive. Ram shows his sensitivity in each and every sphere of his life. He understands the values of the words of his father and quotes :

"Yea, for my father's promise sake  
I to the wood my way will take;

And dwell a lonely excel there  
In hermit dress with matted hair.”  
Amid all duties, Queen, I count  
This duty first and paramount,  
That sons, obedient, aye fulfil  
Their honoured father’s world and will’

Canto XIX (Page 395-397)

These lines impicts his duties and responsibilities as a son who suffers hardships just to keep the words of his father. He tells us how important relationships are.

Today, our major problem in this fast and growing world is that we have made ourselves confined to us and then we feel isolated and all alone. Here Rama teaches us the value of family system. We all have to face predicaments one day or another but there is always a way to cross it. As Franklin D Roosevelt has said, “Smooth Sea doesn’t make a skillful sailor”.This shows that hardships are must to make us perfect but what is important is to handle them gracefully. Second quality of a human is to know that violence is never a resolve. A man should never walk on the path of violence. Rama beautifully gives various chances to Ravana to surrender because he knows the aftermath of a war.

“Go Angad, Ravan’s presence seek,  
And thus my words of warning speak :  
This hour the Maithili lady bring;  
And, yielding while there yet is time,  
Seek, suppliant, pardon for the crime.”

Canto XLI( Page 1616)

Today, we are hearing various cases of terror and violence. The worst is domestic violence. Somewhere today's man does not have self control and shows vulnerability. However Rama always insists on respect for females. He refuses to fight with Tataka as she is a lady. But then Vishwamitra made him realise.

“Go Rama, smite this monster dead,  
Thy hand alone can overthrow,  
In all the worlds, this impious foe.  
Non let compassion lead they mind  
To shrink from blood of womankind”

Canto XVII( Page 129)

Sometimes we need to take difficult decisions in life. Here man should not lose his sense of righteousness. The third quality is to keep calm while taking difficult decisions. Rama has to take a very difficult decision about banishment of Mata Sita. Here Ram chooses the difficult path of self-sacrifice and sacrifices his love and keeps duties of king on priority. Ram teaches the leaders to not to concentrate on themselves alone but focus on your people. He tells them the loyalty of a leader is towards his people first, no matter if they have to lose someone dear to them .Fourthly, a human must possess the quality of forgiveness. Ram portrays this trait magnificently. After the death of Ravana he shows forgiveness and pays due respect to a deceased king.

“The warrior king has nobly died,  
Intrepid hero, firm through all,  
So fell he as the brave should fall;  
And pay the dues that yet remain”

Canto CXI( Page 1735)

Arrogance is no where around him and is down to earth despite being prince of Sooryavanshi dynasty and Ikshavaku clan .He gives respect to his enemies also. Throughout his journey he symbolically guides us how we should behave, what our ethics should be and how to live. He endures sufferings to teach us dignity and ethics and this makes him immortal to the world. Leading a life of virtue makes him great which gives us the capacity to remain true to our principles. He is one who is able to look good in others. Rama in his human form teaches us how one person should have devotion towards the task he is performing. He shows the importance of devotion to the world which is specifically a good quality of a human being. Valmiki's Ramayan quotes:

O Monarch, in thy son we find  
Do thou the godlike virtues hear  
Which Rama to our hearts endear.  
So richly blessed with graces, none  
In all the earth excels thy son  
He keeps each sense with strict control.

Canto II Book 2 (page 302)

Rama is a man with incomparable integrity, he is purushotam. He is already in the mind and soul of his people and he is always fair to them by treating them as family not subjects which is again a great quality of a human.

**Conclusion:**

Valmiki's Ram is the key to human moral inquisitions. In our everyday life we find ourselves surrounded by various obligations and questions. If we incorporate the teachings of God Ram we can sail through the rough seas of our life very easily. Life is unpredictable and has ups and downs. We should not lose hope, as it

is the beauty of it. He brings out the element of humanity and shows as principles of a good leader. He tries to tap into our potential by showing us the capability of man. He shows us that we need to forge our paths. If some forces can break us some can make us and then use them to get success. Family is our support system. No money, no assets can buy us the loyalty that a family gives. Asking for help should not be considered as weak. God Ram himself with the help of Vanaras is able to achieve his aims. He has taught us to come out from darkness within and transform to the real human being as Devdutt Pattanaik rightly said, “Ramayana has never been a tale of Rama’s life. It is a tale of how Ram lived for others. By telling his tale, we hope to inspire to live as Ram did”. Rama tells us that no human is inferior. We all are created equal by the God. It is the thoughts and the paths which we choose, makes the difference.

**Work Cited:**

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