

Bala Kanda

Shudda Brahma Parathpara Rama	My Rama, essence of all that is godly, my Rama
Kalathmaka parameshwara Rama	essence of the destroyer, my Rama
Seshathalpa suha nidhritha Rama	who sleeps on the snake Sesha, my Rama
Barhamthyamara prarthitha Rama	who was saluted by Brahma and all Devas, my Rama
Chanda kirana kala mandana Rama	who was born in Sun's dynasty, my Rama
Srimath Dasratha nandana Rama	who was a source of joy to Dasaratha, my Rama
Kausalya sukha vardhana Rama	who made life of Kausalya very happy, my Rama
Viswamithra priya dhana Rama	who was most dear to Viswamitra, my Rama
Gora Thatakaa gathaka Rama	who killed ogress Thadaka in the deep forest, my Rama
Mareehadhi nipathaka Rama	who drove away Maricha, my Rama
Kaushika muka samrakshaka Rama	who saved the prestige of Koushika, my Rama
Srimad Ahalya uddharaka Rama	who helped Ahalya to regain form, my Rama
Gowthama muni sampoojitha Rama	who was worshipped by Goutama the sage, my Rama
Sura muni vara samsthutha Rama	who was given boons by gods and sages, my Rama
Navika davidha mrudhu paada Rama	
Mithila pura jana modhitha Rama	who was darling of people of Mithila, my Rama
Triambaka karmuka banchaka Rama	who broke the bow of Trayambaka, my Rama
Seetharpitha vara moulika Rama	who was garlanded by Princess Sita, my Rama
Krutha vaivahika kauthuka Rama	who became happy marrying Sita, My Rama
Bhargava darpa vinaasaka Rama	who destroyed the ego of Parasu Rama, my Rama
Srimad Ayodhya palaka Rama	who looked after the people of Ayodhya, my Rama

Significant facts/stories discussed

1. Dasharatha was the king of Ayodhya; he was a righteous king. He had 3 queens - Kausalya, Sumitra and Kaikeyi. But he had no child.
2. Following his Guru Vasishta's advise, he did Shubha Putrakameshti Yagna.
3. From this yagna fire, came a Yagna Purusha; he gave Dasharatha a bowl of Paayasam (Kheer) and asked him to distribute it among his 3 wives.
4. After some time, 4 lovely babies were born -- Kausalya had Rama; Kaikeyi had Bharata; Sumitra had Lakshmana and Shatrugna.
5. All 4 brothers were trained in warfare and archery, in the Vedas and Upanishads.
6. One day, a great sage Vishwamitra came to King Dasharatha. He requested that Rama be sent with him to protect a yagna that was going to be performed shortly. After some hesitation, Dasharatha sent Rama and Lakshmana with Sage Vishwamitra.
7. Taatakaa had been a beautiful maiden born as a result of a boon to a Yaksha called Suketu. She was married to Sunda, and had a son, Maareecha. Once, in a fit of anger she and Maareecha had assaulted the sage Agastya. He had cursed them to lead the ugly lives of demons, feeding on human flesh. Sage Vishwamitra told Rama and Lakshmana, that Taataka and Maareecha were expected to try to destroy the yagna that was going to be performed. It was Rama and Lakshmana's duty to make sure that the yagna went on well. Young Rama and Lakshmana were excited. When Taataka came, Rama pierced her chest with one arrow; she fell with a mighty crash that shook the earth!
8. Maareecha came to disturb the yagna; Rama pulled back the string of his bow and let go the Maanavastra. It tied up Maareecha in a bundle and hurled him a hundred yojanas near the sea. The yagna got completed successfully.
9. King Janaka was a ruler of Mithila. He had a beautiful daughter, Sita. When she came of age, King Janaka arranged for a 'Swayamvara', to get her married.
10. Sage Vishwamitra took Rama and Lakshmana to Mithila. They went thru the ashrama of the Sage Gautama. Once Indra was intoxicated by Gautama's wife Ahalya's beauty and asked her to marry him. Enraged on this, Gautama cursed them both. Ahalya became a stone! When Rama came to this Ashram, she came back to her original self. Rama and Lakshmana touched her feet and continued on to Mithila.
11. At Mithila, Janaka had said that whoever could string the divine bow (Shiva Dhanush), could marry Sita. Rama stepped forward; lifted the bow with ease; strung it and pulled the string to his ear; the bow snapped in 2 with a thunderous clap!! Rama married Sita and everyone in Mithila and Ayodhya were very happy.
12. While coming back to Ayodhya, Rama met Parashurama. Parashurama's dad, sage Jamadagni, had been killed by a Kshatriya and Parashurama had taken a vow to kill them all! He challenged Rama to string Vishnu's bow now! Rama lifted this bow very easily and strung it; fixed the shining arrow to it. Then he said that he would destroy all of Parashurama's pride with his arrow. Parashurama did a pranaam to Rama and went his way.