

**Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya**  
- Introduction by Prof.K.T.Pandurangi

**Chapter - V to IX**

kAj~nAnamApaddapi mandakaTAXamAtrAt.h  
sargasthitipralayasamsR^itimoxahetoH |  
devyAH hareH kimu viDambanamAtrametad.h  
vikrIDatoH suranarAdivadeva tasmAt.h || (V-36)

On returning to His ashrama after killing Mareecha, Sri Rama found the ashrama empty. He moved on in the forest in search of Sita. First He saw Jatayu, who was hurt by Ravana. He learned about Ravana kidnapping Sita. He moved on and killed Kabandha on the way. Then He met Shabari in Matangavana and received her hospitality. Then he saw Hanuman and Sugreeva on Rishyamuka Hill. Hanuman approached Sri Rama and prostrated at His feet. With this, the fifth chapter of Tatparya Nirnaya closes.

The events of Kishkindha Kanda are described in the sixth chapter. Hanuman, who prostrated at the feet of Sri Rama, was taken up by Sri Rama's arms with great affection. He took Sri Rama and Lakshmana on his shoulders and brought them to Rishyamuka, where Sugreeva stayed. Sugreeva explained his pitiable condition on account of his brother's aggressive posture. Sri Rama promised him that his aggressive brother Vali will be killed, and the kingship will be restored to him. Sugreeva also agreed to help Sri Rama find Sita. However, he wanted to know whether Sri Rama had a sufficient amount of strength to fight Vali. Therefore, he showed Rama the body of Dundubhi, who was killed by Vali. Sri Rama threw that dead body a hundred yojanas away with His toe. The carcass killed a number of demons living on Rasatala. Then, Sugreeva showed Rama seven demons present in the form of seven tala trees and said that if He could destroy these with one arrow, He could kill Vali. Sri Rama destroyed all of them with one arrow, which, after destroying the tala trees, pierced the seven underworlds viz., Atala, Vitala, etc., up to Patala and also destroyed the demons known as Kumiudi. Then, Sugreeva took Rama to the city of Kishkindha to kill Vali. Vali pounced on Sugreeva, but Sri Rama did not kill him, pretending that he could not distinguish between the two. The real reason was to give an opportunity for the brothers to reconcile and to avoid a confrontation. Even the long enmity between the brothers vanishes when they reach the point of crisis.

saubhrAtrameva yadi vAJNchati vAlinaiva |  
nAhaM nirAgasamathAgrajaniM hanishhye ||  
dIrdhaH sahodaragato na bhaveddhi kopo |  
dIrdho.api kAraNamR^ite vinivartate cha ||

When Sugreeva again appealed to Sri Rama to kill Vali, Sri Rama threw a strong arrow at Vali and killed him. It is well-known that Sri Rama killed Vali from behind a tree. The reason for this was neither fear nor treachery. Vali was also a great devotee and would have prostrated at the feet of Sri Rama if he had seen him. Then, it would have been a dilemma whether to stand by His

promise to Sugreeva or to stand by Vali, who had prostrated at His feet. Therefore, Sri Rama preferred to be invisible.

bhakto mamaushha yadi mAmabhipashyatIha |  
pAdau dhruvaM mama sameshhyati nirvichAraH ||

yogyo vadho nahi janasya padAnatasya |  
rAjyArthinA ravisutena vadho.arthitashhcha ||

tasmAdadR^ishyatanureva nihanmi shakraputram.h |  
tvitIha tamadR^ishyatayA jaghAna ||

Then, during the rainy season, there was a halt for four months. Sugreeva had not taken any initiative to find Sita. However, on the strong advice of Hanuman, the vanaras spread over different parts were gathered and started. Sri Rama gave his ring to Hanuman to show it to Sita to identify. After a good deal of wandering, they found that the time limit given by Sugreeva was over. Tara and Angada suggested that the efforts should be abandoned. But Hanuman opposed this. They moved on and ultimately reached the Mahendra Mountain. At this place, they met Sampati, Jatayu's elder brother. He informed them that he had seen Ravana taking Sita away. She is kept in Ashokavana. The distance between Mahendra Mountain and Lanka was a hundred yojanas. Other vanaras were not able to jump this far. They all appealed to Hanuman to cross the sea and trace Sita. With this, the sixth chapter closes.

Hanuman offers salutations to Sri Rama in his mind before he takes a big jump over the sea. The sea became turbulent, and the living beings within the sea came out. The trees on the Mahendra mountain were uprooted and the Mainaka mountain came out of the sea to offer him a resting place. As he moved on, the mother of the serpents, viz. Surasa, confronts him. He enters her belly and comes out. Then, Simhika, a demoness who used to drag persons by attacking their shadows, drags him. He destroyed her also. Finally, he lands on the Trikuta hill that surrounded the city of Lanka. Throughout the process of crossing the sea, he had considerably expanded his body. Now, he contracts it to as small as a cat. He finds Sita in Ashokavana under a Simshupa tree. He hands the ring given by Sri Rama to Sita. In return, Sita gives her Chudamani to Hanuman to give to Sri Rama.

In order to make Ravana aware of his strength and mission, Hanuman starts destroying Ravana's gardens. On hearing this, Ravana asks his army to punish him. Finding that they were not able to do the task, he deposes his son, Aksha. Hanuman kills Aksha. Then Indrajit is deposed. Indrajit employs the Brahmastra against him. Out of respect for Brahma, he pretends to have been caught. The demons tie him with Nagapasha. Finding that they have used an inferior weapon, the Brahmastra returns. Then Hanuman is taken into Ravana's presence. Ravana orders his tail to be burned. With the fire applied to his tail, Hanuman burns Lanka and returns to Sri Rama. He offers the Chudamani to Him and embraces Him with great affection, as it were, offering himself as a present to Him.

svAtmapradAnamadhikaM pachanAtmajasya |

kurvan.h samashlishhadamalaM paramAbhitushhTaH || (VI-50)

The eighth chapter begins with Sri Rama lying on a grass mat in order to persuade the sea to make the way for Him to go to Lanka. This was the mild way of persuading the sea before any harsh step was taken. At that time, Vibhishana came to join Sri Rama and fight against his own brother Ravana since his conduct was adharma. Sugreeva and all the others opposed accepting him as he belonged to the enemy's group. However, Hanuman stated that Vibhishana is genuinely supporting Sri Rama and that he be accepted. Sri Rama accepted him and coronated him on the kingdom of Lanka as he was sure of the defeat of Ravana.

Since the sea did not make way easily, Sri Rama took His arrow to aim at him. The samudraraja came out and suggested that a bridge be built over the sea. Sri Rama had Nala build the bridge assisted by the vanaras. He crossed the sea and landed on Lanka. Ravana had made elaborate arrangements to protect the four gates of the city of Lanka. Sri Rama also made appropriate distribution of the vanara army. A detailed description of the battle is given in this chapter.

After Ravana is killed, Shiva challenges Sri Rama to fight since He had killed his devotee Ravana. Then, Sri Rama gets His arrow ready to aim at Shiva. However, Shiva realizes his mistake. Then, a fire ordeal is pretended for Sita pratikrti. Sita returns from Kailasa. Sri Rama returns to Ayodhya by Pushpaka Vimana. Sri Rama is coronated. He favors all suitably. Hanuman asks for only uninterrupted devotion toward Him.

prachardhatAM bhaktiralaM xaNe xaNe  
tvayIsha me hrAsavivarjitA sadA | (VIII-248)

With this happy note, the chapter closes.