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Indian knowledge system and Sunderkand: A Rereading

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Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas holds a significant place in the Indian knowledge tradition. It is a crucial text of Indian culture and religion. In almost every household in North India, the Ramcharitmanas is recited on auspicious occasions. It is placed in the place of worship in every North Indian household. It is a unique text that unites society and families. Thus, the Ramcharitmanas becomes more than just a religious text; it is also a social and cultural text. In the Ramcharitmanas, Tulsidas has based the story on the life of Ram. Ram is the epitome of dignity. He advocates for dignified conduct in family, society, and governance. He not only advocates dignified behavior but also embodies it in all aspects of his life. He maintains a dignified demeanor on all occasions. Because of this dignified demeanor, Ram is revered as a god throughout India. He faces whatever challenges arise in his life. He does not become discouraged or disheartened by circumstances. Through his conduct and actions, Ram instills strength and courage in society. This inspires ordinary people not to be intimidated by circumstances but to face them. Only by facing them can a situation change. In today's times, the Ramcharit Manas needs to be read and understood from this perspective.

In this article, the "Sunderkand" is read and understood from this perspective. In Indian society, reciting the "Sunderkand" to obtain Lord Hanuman's blessings has been a tradition. It is believed that reciting the "Sunderkand" removes all suffering and bondages. This brings Hanuman's blessings. Devotees pray to Hanuman through the "Sunderkand" recitation in a hope that whatever they have been suffering, they will be freed from it. In way the same as you have given Sita ji. Just as you removed the sufferings of others, please remove our sufferings as well. Certainly, the troubles of devotees are also removed. Often, we read scripture with devotion. We read it with devotion, but do not try to understand its essence. If we understand the essence of 'Sunderkand' rather than merely reciting it, then achieving any goal is certainly not difficult. When the goals we set for ourselves are achieved, problems like pain, suffering, frustration, and despair automatically disappear. We all gain freedom from many types of mental illness, making our lives happier.

The 'Sunderkand' begins with a problem. That problem is how to find Sita after crossing the vast ocean. Who will go to Lanka to find Sita Ji. Among all the monkeys present there, Jamvant ji is the oldest and most experienced. He dared to jump to Lanka and return. However, his body

has now aged. He cannot do this anymore. Angad can cross the ocean and go to Lanka, but he is doubtful about returning. Everyone discusses how to solve this problem. Hanuman stands quietly in a corner. Jamwant knows that Hanuman is capable of doing this task. However, Hanuman himself is unaware of his own strength. Mythologically, it is believed that he learns his strength from the sages. were forgotten by the curse of.

Sage Hanuman had lost his strength due to a curse from the goddess. Let us put this legend aside for a moment. Let us assume that Hanuman Ji is an ordinary man, and Jamwant is the oldest member of the family. He encourages Hanuman to cross the ocean. Because we all forget our powers. We do not realize that we have the power to accomplish anything. If a person knew about his own power, he would never feel discouraged or disappointed. When we feel discouraged and disappointed, an experienced person in our family or society awakens in us the belief that we all have the extraordinary power to accomplish anything. Then, like Hanuman ji, we all, after recognizing his powers, become ready to undertake even the most difficult tasks.

Jamwant Ji encourages Hanuman Ji and says that –

"Kahayi Reach Pati Sunu Hanumana ।

Ka chup Sadhi Rahehun Balwana ॥

Pawan tanya bal pawan samana।

Buddhi vivek vigyan nidhana ॥

Kawan so kaaj kathin jag mahi ।

Jo Nahin hoyi taat tumh pahin" ॥ Sunderkand, Ch. 2, 3, Page 9

Here, Jamwant encourages Hanuman, saying, "O mighty one, why are you standing silently? You are the son of the wind, and like the wind, you possess immense strength. What difficult task in this world can you not accomplish? Humans possess immense strength within themselves, yet remain oblivious to it. When they break free from the web of self-created doubt and despair, no task in this world becomes difficult for them. Often, to emerge from the darkness of despair and hopelessness, we seek an inspiring figure who encourages us, helps us recognize our inner strengths, and helps us put them into practice.

Jamwant ji encouraged him, and Hanuman felt a new kind of energy within him. His body glows like gold, radiating with light. He is filled with the strength and energy of a lion. He prepares to undertake the difficult task of crossing the ocean. He does not doubt that he will be unable to do it. He says that if you ask him to, he will cross the ocean, kill Ravana, and bring him here along with the Trikuta mountain.

"Sahit Sahaya ravanhi maari ।

Aanau Ihan Trikoot Upari ॥

Jaamvant Main Puchaun Tohi ।

Uchit Sikhavanu Deejahun Mohin" Sunderkand, Ch.5, Page 10

When a person, even a student, is motivated, they can make any impossible task possible. It is not necessary to possess divine power. When a person is motivated and ready to undertake a task with full dedication, a power is infused within them that propels them to their goal. This power can be considered self-power or divine power. To achieve any goal, it is most important to have faith in ourselves. We should not have any doubts about achieving our goals. Sunderkand Hanuman Ji devotion: Along with emotions, it also teaches us to be enthusiastic and to believe in ourselves.

Hanuman in 'Sunderkand' After receiving the blessings of all his superiors, he sets out to achieve his goal. It also explains that achieving one's goal is possible only when one perseveres

tirelessly and without getting bogged down by minor obstacles and setbacks. This can be understood from Hanuman's goal of finding Sita. When Hanuman crosses the ocean to find Sita, he encounters many obstacles and crises along the way. However, he does not entangle himself in these obstacles and crises. If he wanted, he could have wasted his time facing these crises and setbacks. However, he has a greater goal in mind, so he remains focused. We all face many obstacles and difficulties in achieving our goals. Sometimes we get entangled in these difficulties and setbacks, losing sight of our primary goal. Hanuman in 'Sunderkand,' 'How to stay focused on your goal,' has been presented very well.

While Hanuman was traveling by sea to Lanka, Mount Mainak emerged from the sea and requested him to stop and rest for a while. Hanuman bowed politely and said, –

“Hanuman Tehi Parsa Kar Puni Keenah Pranaam

Raam Kaaju Keenhen Binu Mohi Kaha Bishraam”||Sunderkand , Do.1 page 14

How can I rest without doing Ram's work? Here, Hanuman, expressing his devotion to Ram, calls his goal Ram's work. Hanuman is so steadfast in the pursuit of his goal that he refuses to rest until he has achieved it. This incident teaches us that we should not rest until we have achieved our goals. We should refrain from pleasures and enjoyment until we have achieved them, because often, we become engrossed in these pleasures and forget our goals. Therefore, we must not rest until we have achieved our goals. Students recite the Sunderkand, praying to Hanuman to help them pass their exams. If students learn from the Sunderkand, we should continue studying until the exam is over. If we follow Hanuman's message, there is no reason to fail any exam. We should consider the given message in Sunder with more sincerity and seriousness.

Hanuman leaves Mainak Mountain and sets out to find Sita. He encounters a demoness named Surasa, who has a boon that no one can proceed without entering her mouth. For Hanuman, getting rid of this problem was not difficult. He could have fought her if he wanted. However, he knew the task he was undertaking was more important. Therefore, he did not want to waste his time engaging with Surasa. So he requested her to eat him after he had completed Rama's mission and given him information about Sita. "Mother," Hanuman said, "let me go now." Surasa does not relent even after Hanuman pleads a million times. Let us rely on our intellect. Surasa widened her mouth by a yojana, and Hanuman expanded his body to twice that size. She made her mouth sixteen yojanas wide. Hanuman Ji immediately became twenty-two yojanas tall. After this -

“Jas Jas Sursa Badanu Badhava

Taasu Doon kapi Roop Dekhava ||

Sat Jojan Tehin Aanan Keenha |

Ati Laghu Roop Pawansut Leenah”|| Sundarkand, Ch. 5, Page 15

As Surasa opened her mouth, Hanumanji also expanded his body. As soon as Surasa expanded her mouth to a hundred yojanas, Hanumanji immediately took a very small form, entered Surasa's mouth, and emerged.

“Badan Payithee Puni Baaher Aawa

Manga Bida Tahi Siru Nava”|| Sunderkand, Ch. 6, page 15

After emerging from Surasa's mouth, Hanuman bows to her, bids her farewell, and moves on to achieve his goal. It is noteworthy that despite being "atulitbaldhamam," Hanuman relies not on strength but on intelligence. He transforms into a small form and intelligently emerges from Surasa's mouth. This also protects Surasa's boon. Hanuman could have engaged Surasa and fought Him if he had wanted. However, such a fight would have delayed his achievement.

Therefore, he faces this problem by becoming small. This incident teaches us that if we want to achieve a big goal, we should not get entangled in the small obstacles that come our way. If possible, we should display humility and resilience by overlooking trivial matters and move forward with purpose and determination. ignore them, and move forward. Alternatively, using our intelligence, resolve them and move forward. This is a very important lesson taught by the "Sunderkand. "Too often, due to our ego, we waste precious time by getting entangled in small incidents and matters. , At times, our desire to impress others may lead individuals to increase significant losses and compromise more important priorities. The lesson from "Sunderkand" is that it is wise to remain humble and continually move forward toward your goal.

Hanuman also uses his strength where necessary. While crossing the ocean towards Lanka, he encounters a demon who captures the shadows of flying creatures and eats them. She then attacks Hanuman. The demoness did the same to Hanuman. The demon grabbed Hanuman's shadow. Knowing her nature, Hanuman did not think it was appropriate to plead with her. He used force and destroyed her.

“Taahi Maari Marutsut Beera

Baridhi Paar Gayayun Matidheera” Sundarkand, Ch. 3, Page 17

In this way, Hanuman ji, without stopping, uses his intelligence and strength to cross the sea with patience and reach Lanka. Here, the word "Matidhira" (Matidhira) represents Hanuman's patient intellect. Because he has a lofty goal to achieve, haste cannot be used. Haste can hinder the attainment of the goal. Here, we learn that patience is essential to achieving a lofty goal. Hanuman reinforces this through his behavior upon entering Lanka. Upon arriving, he finds Ravana's palace guarded by numerous demon soldiers. In this situation, if he were to use force to fight them, it would take him a significant amount of time. It would be spent.

Furthermore, their goal of finding Sita could also be jeopardized. If Ravana had an idea that someone will come to find Sita, he would've hide her elsewhere. Considering these circumstances, Hanumanji takes the help of wisdom and –

“Pur Rakhware Dekhi Bahu Kapi Man keenh Bichaari

Ati laghu Roop Dharoun Nisi Nagar Karoun Paisaar” Sunderkand,Do.3, page 19

“Masak Samaan Roop Dharee

Lankahi Chaleu Sumiri Narharee ” Sunderkand, Ch.1, Page 19

Hanuman, meditating on Lord Rama, enters Lanka in the form of a mosquito. We all know that Hanuman is the "giver of the eight siddhis and nine nidhis. "He is 'Atulitabaldhamam'. "He is very powerful. However, why does he enter Lanka in the form of a musket? Because the task can be accomplished by becoming small, while becoming big creates many problems. We can achieve our goals just as easily by becoming small. We cannot achieve them by becoming big and showing off. Therefore, "Sundarkand" teaches us that we need to become small to achieve our goals. To achieve any goal, we must abandon our ego. This instills humility and a sense of centrality in us. Nowadays, everyone wants to be big, to appear bigger than others. No one wants to appear small. If you are great, people will automatically recognize this greatness; there is no need to tell anyone. Hanuman is never described as intelligent or powerful in the entire Ramcharitmanas. Other characters in the Ramcharitmanas recount their deeds accomplished through their wisdom and strength. The lesson here is that we do not need to speak for ourselves. Our actions will define us.

Hanuman in 'Sunderkand' Ji has no ego. Despite being supremely valorous and powerful, when he meets Vibhishana in Lanka, he shows no pride in his high birth. Many people are proud of belonging to a noble family, of being different from others, and of being given more

respect in society. We all know that no one has control over their birth. If birth were a matter of choice, everyone would choose to be born into a high-class family. However, being born into a high-class family does not make a person great. It is their actions in society that make them great or lowly. It is his actions that make him revered and great. Hanuman himself says about himself :

“Kahahun Kawan Mai Param kulinaḥ

Kapi Chanchal sabahee Bidhi Heena ḥ

Prat Lei Jo Naam Hamara ḥ

Tehi Din Taahi na Mile Ahaara”ḥ Sundarkand, Ch. 4, Page 25

Hanuman says to Vibhishana, "Tell me what great nobleness do I possess? I am a playful monkey and lowly in every way. Anyone who utters my name in the morning does not receive food for the rest of the day." Hanuman's statement about himself reveals the purity of his mind. Ji possesses all the qualities that elevate him to a high position in society. However, he harbors no ego. Despite not being from a high family, he is revered by all sections of society. This is due to his public service and his devotion to his master. He holds a position in society that even the most prominent nobles do not achieve. Therefore, we should focus on our social work and conduct, rather than being proud of our high family status.

Sita by Vibhishana. Even after learning about Sita's whereabouts, Hanuman maintains his composure. Even after hearing Ravana's hurl harsh words for Sita, Hanuman maintains his composure. He takes a small, water drop like form and settle down on a tree. He shows no signs of impatience, knowing his mission is far from complete. When Ravana departs, he returns to Sita. He appears before Ravana. This incident teaches us to maintain patience in adverse circumstances. We must maintain calm even in turbulent situations. If Hanuman had appeared before Ravana at that very moment, Sita's problems would only get worsen. Therefore, he makes the right decisions at the right time. Throughout all this, we see that Hanuman remains modest despite his greatness and refrains from drawing attention to his achievement. Such humility enables individuals to pursue their goal effectively and ultimately realise their aspirations.

Hanuman does not reveal his gigantic form unless required. When he goes to Sita, he explains to her that Ramchandra ji will come with the monkeys and free her from this prison. He will take them away. O Mother! Please be patient for a few more days. Sita ji, after hearing these words, she asks, "Son! All men must be small like you. Demons are very powerful warriors." Then Hanuman, assuming his enormous form like the Sumer Mountain, approaches Sita and Present it before her, from which Sita's doubts are dispelled. Hanuman reveals his gigantic form to Sita to allay her doubts. He does not reveal his gigantic form; instead, he shows her his power. After displaying his immense power to Sita ji, he returns to his modest and diminutive form.

“Sita Maan Bharoos Tab Bhayayuḥ

Puni laghu Roop Pawanshut Layayu”ḥ Sundarkand, Ch. 5, Page 42

"Sunderkand, "we see that while Hanuman always keeps himself humble and egoless, Ravana is filled with arrogance, repeatedly boasting of his strength and virility. He repeatedly insults people and says, "You do not know who I am." He is extremely proud of his powers. Because of this pride, he kidnaps Lord Hanuman and keeps insulting him. Yes, Ashok Vatika has been destroyed, and Ravana's soldiers have captured him. Presented in the court. Then, Ravana, the way he asks about Hanumanji's introduction, his arrogance can be clearly seen in it -

“Kah Lankesh Kawan tain Keesaḥ

Kehi Ke Bal Ghalehin Ban Kheesa ḥ

Ki Dhoun Shrawan Sunehin Nahin Mohee ।

Dekhau Ati Asank Sath Tohee”॥ Sundarkand, Ch. 1, Page 41

Ravana says, O Ravana! Who are you? By whose power did you ravage and destroy the forest? Have you never heard my name? Don't you know me? This statement clearly shows Ravana's ego. Ravana's pride is what destroys him. Hanuman's arrogant personality makes him revered throughout society. This incident in the Sundarkand teaches us that we should never be arrogant, because arrogance leads us to our destruction. Hanuman also tries to reason with Ravana, not only to understand but also to request him to give up his pride.

“Binti Karayu Jori Kar Ravan।

Sunahu Maan Taji Mor Sikhawan ॥

Dekhahu Tumh Nij Kulahi Bichari ।

Bhram taji Bhajahu Bhagat Bhay Haari”॥ Sundarkand, Ch. 4, Page 41-42

Hanuman understands Ravana's welfare. However, a person steeped in ego feels bad when his own interests are explained to him. Today, we see in our society that if someone is told what is good for him, he feels bad about it. Instead of paying attention to your advice, he will consider you his enemy. This does not harm the person trying to explain, but one day, you yourself will destroy yourself. Therefore, do not do anything without self-interest. If someone speaks for the benefit of others, he should be heeded. Hanuman, too, tried to reason with Ravana without any selfish motive, but his eyes were clouded by ego. Therefore, he considered Hanuman his enemy and insulted him.

“Mrityu Nikat Aai Khal Tohi ।

Lagesi Adham Sikhawan Mohee ॥

Ulta Hoinhi Kah Hanumana ।

Matibhram Tor Pragat Main Jana”॥ Sunderkand, Ch. 2, Page 43

Hanuman ji, after locating Lord Hanuman's body and returning to his group across the ocean, the monkeys and bears there recognize from the joy on his face that he has accomplished his task. Hanuman is nowhere to be seen on this occasion. His behavior does not reflect any pride in his achievement. Others tell him about his success. He does not brag about himself. The Sundarkand teaches us that after achieving our goals, we should remain as humble and grounded as before. We should not have any ego about our accomplishments. We should not blow our own trumpet. When someone else tells others about our achievements, it increases our prestige. Jamwant tells Shri Ram about Hanuman's work.

“Naath Pawansut Keenhi Jo Karni ।

Sahsahun Mukh Na jayi So Barni ॥

Pawantanya Ke Charit Suhaae ।

Jamvant Raghupatihi Sunaae”॥ Sunderkand, Ch. 3, page 64

Jamwant Ji said to Shri Ramchandra Ji, "O Lord! The work done by the son of the wind god cannot be described even by a thousand mouths." Jamwant Ji described the amazing work Hanuman Ji performed for Shri Ramchandra Ji. Hanuman Ji stood there with a humble expression. Shri Ram Chandra Ji wanted to embrace Hanuman Ji, but Hanuman Ji held his feet and refused to get up, even when Shri Ram Chandra Ji tried to lift them. It is Hanuman Ji's humility that makes him respectable and great. We should learn from this behavior to be proud of our achievements. However, our behavior should not reflect arrogance. Nowadays, we often showcase our small achievements on social media. After achieving a goal, we all notice a distinct change in our behavior. We begin to consider ourselves different from others. This kind of behavior reflects the ego hidden within us. We need to avoid this. Hanuman in 'Sunderkand.' This

is what his character teaches us.

If we must share our accomplishments, we should do so with humility. We should not be conceited in presenting our achievements. Just as in the Sundarkand, when asked by Lord Rama, Hanuman, without pride, recounts how he burned down the impenetrable fortress of Lanka.

“Kahu Kapi Ravan Palit Lanka ।

Kehi Bidhi Daheyu Durg Ati Banka ॥

Prabhu Prasann Jana hanumana ।

Bola Bachan Bigat Abhimana” ॥ Sunderkand, Ch. 3 page 69

Hanuman speaks of his accomplishments without pride. He doesn't possess any kind of pride. This is what makes him significant. He tells Shri Ram that a monkey's job is to jump from branch to branch. "By jumping in this way, we burned Lanka. I have not done anything special; I have only done what is natural for me." He even downplays his major accomplishments. Hanuman's telling does not diminish his achievements. However, if he had boasted about his achievements, they would certainly have been tinged with pride. Therefore, he declares that he has not done anything great, but rather fulfilled his duties. This admission makes him devoid of pride and pure. He tells Shri Ram that he has not done anything; all this has been possible only because of your grace.

“So sab Tav Pratap Raghurai ।

Naath Na Kachu Mori Prabhutai” ॥ Sunderkand, Ch. 5, page 70

In this way, 'Sunderkand' devotion, despite being a religious text, is a guide to simple behavior. 'Sundarkand' prominently shows how one can achieve one's goal with ease and without pride. How we should behave even after achieving our goal is evident in this text. If someone draws our attention to our mistakes, we should acknowledge them and not protest. If we do not pay attention to our mistakes out of ego, we ultimately fall. Ravana was very powerful; he was victorious over the three worlds, and all the gods bowed before him. Such a Trilok, the victorious Ravana, is destroyed along with his clan because he does not listen to anyone due to his ego.

Today, the Sunderkand needs to be read with this perspective in mind. While reciting it with devotion, the devotee should also understand its essence. Hanuman Ji, we should follow this path. By following it, we will not only achieve our goals but also remain free from pride. Because whenever pride arises within us, it leads us to downfall. Pride is the cause of many problems in our society. It is because of pride that we degrade and discriminate against each other. This discriminatory behavior creates animosity in society. This disrupts social peace. To establish harmony in society, we must control and restrain our behavior. 'Sunderkand' is an important guide to human behavior. This text holds a significant place in the Indian knowledge tradition. Texts related to Indian religion and philosophy should not be dismissed as religious or sectarian. Rather, we should strive to understand the important ideas they express.