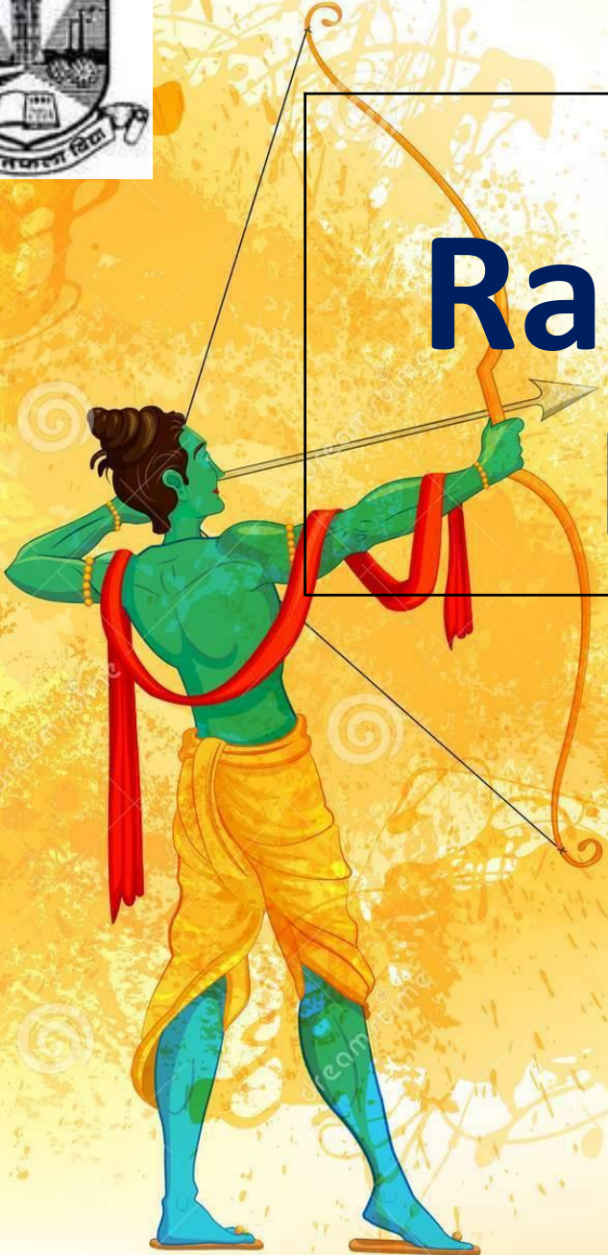




Ramayana: versions and Different Traditions



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Valmiki's *Ramayana*

यावत् स्थास्यन्ति गिरयः सरितश्च महीतले ।
तावद्रामायणकथा लोकेषु प्रचरिष्यति ॥

- Adi-kavya composed by Valmiki
- Ramayana- journey Rama as Maryada Purushottama
- Rama-Sita-Lakshman-Bharata-Hanuman-Ravana etc
- Ideals of human relationships
- 24000 *shlokas*, 500 *sargas* in seven *Kandas*
- Sourcebook for later Rama-kathas and many literary forms
- Influenced literary, oral traditions, arts and culture
- Integral part of Indian culture

Adikavi-Valmiki

मा निषाद प्रतिष्ठां त्वमगमः शाश्वतीः समाः ।
यत्क्रौञ्चमिथुनादेकमवधीः काममोहितम् ॥

- Different legends about Valmiki
- Excellent poetic qualities
- *Anushtub* meter in Classical Sanskrit
- Pathos- *Karuna rasa*
- Simple but elegant language
- Shades of human emotions and feelings
- Nature's description
- Different figures
- Characterization

Itihasa/epic

- Narrating the nation
- Chronological sequence
- Portrayed of love and war
- Divine-human interaction
- The moral concern
- Treatment of space and time
- Use of hymns
- Realism vs. fantasy

धर्मार्थकाममोक्षाणां उपदेशसमन्वितम् ।
पूर्ववृत्तं कथायुक्तम् इतिहासं प्रचक्षते ॥

Ramakatha and Ramayana

- *Ramayana* of Valmiki
- Difference between ***Ramakatha*** and ***Ramayana (VR)***
- *Ramayana (VR)* much later than Ramakatha
- Ramaktha -prior to that of Mahabharata
- *Ramayana (VR)* and Mahabharata – editions---later seems prior
- *Ramayana (VR)* got complete when the last edition of *Mahbharata* was getting completed

- Winternitz –available edition of MBh (300-400 CE) and
available edition of VR (100-200 CE)

- Macdonell- Original before 5th century BCE
Available- 2nd century BCE

- Keith- Original- 300 BCE
Available- 200 BCE

Historic event

- *Ramakatha* is ancient than *Ramayana*
- Rama- historic personality
- Excavation sites-
- Ayodhya-Nandigram-Shrngaveraupra-Ramagiri etc
- Relics of Ramasetu
- Places are not fictitious
- Descriptions are glorified-legends

VR- Seven Kandas

- 1) बालकाण्ड
- 2) अयोध्याकाण्ड
- 3) अरण्यकाण्ड
- 4) किष्किन्धाकाण्ड
- 5) सुन्दरकाण्ड
- 6) युध्दकाण्ड
- 7) उत्तरकाण्ड

Commentaries

- *रामानुजीयम्* of Ramanuja (1400 CE)
- *सर्वार्थसार* of Venkata Krsnadhvari (1475 CE)
- *रामायणदीपिका* of Vaidyanatha Dikshita (1500 CE)
- *बृहद्विवरण* and *लघुविवरण* (1600 CE)
- *रामायणदीपिका* and *तीर्थीय* of Maheshvaratirtha (Before 1500 CE)
- *रामायणभूषण* / *गोविन्दराजीय* of Govindaraja (1500 CE)
- *वाल्मीकिहृदय* of Ahobila Atreya (1700 CE)
- *रामायणतिलक* / *रामीयाव्याख्या* of Nageshabhatta or Nagojibhatta (1800 CE)

Versions of VR

- चतुर्विंशतिसाहस्री संहिता ।
- Many editions were prevalent- three were prominent
 - Nirnaya sagar press (popular in Northern India)
 - Bengal edition (published in Kolkata)- on the basis of this there was an edition published by Italian scholar)
 - Edition published from Lahore
- Many editions were published on the basis of these editions- Mumbai-Madras-Kumbhakonam-Shrirangam etc
- Critical edition of Ramayana –Oriental Institute of MS University - Baroda

Interpolations- Additions-Growth

- Difficult to identify original *Kandas*
- *Aranyakanda* to *Yuddhakanda* (5 *kandas*)
- *Balakanda* and *Uttarakanda* are later
- *Uttarakanda* not later than 300 BCE because one verse is found in Dasharatha Jataka
- Kalidasa was having entire Ramayana while composing Raghuvamsha-some incidences of Uttarkanda are found
- Uttarakanda has some glimpses of Indian history
- Some additions were done from the viewpoint of making it great classical poetry-rich treasure house of *akhyanas*-
- Valmiki's Ramayana was later on revised by later compilers

Many *Ramayanas*....

- Hundreds of retellings of Ramayana in India, South East Asia and beyond
- Genre of *Ramakatha* is flowing continuously till the date
- Enigmatic story is fascinating writers of all eras
- Influence on regional literature, folk culture and arts
- Propagation of philosophical ideas, social thoughts etc

Sanskrit *Ramayanas*

- *Ramopakhyana* of *Mahabharata* (chapter 18 of Aranyaka parva)
- *Raghuvamsha* of Kalidasa
- *Janakiharana* of Kumaradasa
- *Ramayanamanjiri* of Kshmendra
- *Ramayanachampu* of Bhoja
- *Adbhuta Ramayana*
- *Adhyatama Ramayana*
- *Ananda Ramayana*
- *Yogavashishtha*
- *Bhrushundi Ramayana*
- *Tattvasangraha Ramayana* of Ramabrahmananda
- *Valmikibhavadipam* of Anatacharya

Dramas

- *Mahaviracaritam* and *Uttararamacaritam* of Bhavabhuti
- *Abhisheka* and *Pratima* of Bhasa
- *Anargharaghava* of Murari
- *Balaramayana* of Rajashekhara
- *Ashcaryachudamani* of Shaktibhadra
- *Kanakajanaki* of Kshmenedra
- *Prasannaraghava* of Jayadeva

Puranas

- *Agni Purana*
- *Vayu Purana*
- *Vishnu Purana*
- *Padma Purana*
- *Bhagavata Purana*
- *Shiva Purana*
- *Skanda Purana*

Buddhist *Jatakas*

- दशरथ जातक
- वेस्सन्तर जातक
- जयददीस जातक
- मखादेव जातक
- निमि जातक
- महाजन जातक
- दशब्राह्मण जातक
- देवधम्म जातक
- घटपण्डित जातक
- सिवि जातक
- अनाम जातक
- दशरथ कथानाम

Jataka Stories
Buddhist Philosophy
Bodhisattva
Final Birth- Buddha

Jain *Ramayanas*

- Rama as one of the sixty-three illustrious person (*Shalaka-Purusha*)
- Paumacariyam of Vimalasuri
- Padma Purana of Ravisena
- Mahapurana of Pushpadanta
- Kathakosha of Harisena
- Version of Gunabhadra and Sanghadasa

Regional *Ramayanas*

- *Ramacaritmanas*- Tulasidas (Uttarapradesha)
- *Kamba Ramayana*-Kamban (Tamilnadu)
- *Kruttivasa Ramayana* (Bengal)
- *Bhavartha Ramayana*- Eknatha (Maharashtra)
- *Ranganatha Ramayana* of Andhra Pradesh
- *Molla Ramayana* (Andhra Pradesh)
- *Torave Ramayana* (Karnataka)

South East Asian versions

- *Ramakein* of Thailand
- *Hikayat Seri Rama* of Malaysia
- *Bhanubhakta Ramayana* and *Siddhi Ramayana* of Nepal
- *Kakawin Ramayana* of Old Javanese
- *Ramakavaca*- Bali
- *Yama Zatdaw*- Mynanmar (Burma)

Adhyatma Ramayana

- Part of Brahmanda Purana
- Spiritual interpretation of Valimiki Ramayana
- Follows the division of seven *kandas*
- Conversation between Mahadeva and Parvati
- Portrayal of Rama as Parabrahman and Sita as his *maya*
- Rama and Sita as Purusha Prakrti
- Incidences in the life of Rama-matter of *Lila*
- Influenced by *Bhagavata Purana*
- Profuse *stotras* and philosophical discourses
- Story starts with “*Ramahrdayam*”

रामं विद्धि परं ब्रह्म सच्चिदानन्दमद्वयम्।
सर्वोपाधिविनिर्मुक्तं सत्तामात्रगोचरम् ॥

Adbhuta Ramayana

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति सुव्रत ।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदा प्रकृतिसम्भवः ॥

- Conversation between Valmiki and his pupil Bharadvaj on the river Tamasa
- Feminine Ramayana, told from Sita's perspective
- Not following the division of Seven *Kandas*
- Sita's birth is of great prominence
- Sita kills thousand headed Ravana
- Sita is the manifestation of Mahakali
- *Sita-sahasranama* included in the Ramayana
- Shakta religion and philosophy
- Sita is identified with *mulaprakrti*
- नानया रहितो रामः किञ्चित्कर्तुमपि क्षमः ।
- एका शक्तिः शिवोऽप्येकः शक्तिमानुच्यते शिवः।
- अभेदं चानुपश्यन्ति योगिनः तत्त्वदर्शिनः॥



Ananda Ramayana

- Extensive than VR, Story narrated by Shiva and Parvati
- Not based on pathos but the 'bliss' in the life of Rama and Sita
- Story which proceeds even after the coronation of Rama
- Places of Deccan mentioned with details
- Some interesting narratives of Ananda Ramayana
 - Abduction of Kausalya by Ravana
 - Sita's birth story in very different manner
 - Two brothers of Ravana -Airavana and Mairavana
 - Hanuman saves Rama from the clutches of Airavana and Mairavana

Bhushundi Ramayana

- Tulasidas influenced by Kaka Bhushundi-considered him ardent devotee of Rama
- Bhushunda was born to Surya and Kalakantaki (terrible sister of Kala)
- Bhushunda- ferocious crow- destroyed the Garuda, mount of Vishnu
- Brahma narrated greatness of Rama to Bhushunda
- *Brahma-Bhushunda Ramayana, Brahma Ramayana or Adi Ramayana*
- Cult of Rama-bhakti , Rama-Bhagavata, Bhagavatisation of Ramayana
- रामस्तु भगवान् स्वयम्।
- Rama- embodiment of bliss, *Rasalila* with *Sahajanandini* Sita
- Ravana sends series of demons –Putana etc.
- Rama is also at Vraja and described as playing with gopis, stealing butter ..
- Ramagita- a discourse given by Rama on bhakti (modelled on Bhagavadgita)

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- *Molla Ramayana* (Andhra Pradesh)
- *Torave Ramayana* (Karnataka)
- *Girdhara Ramayana* (Gujarata)

Bhavartha Ramayana

- Composed by Eknath (1533-1599 CE), a great saint of Maharashtra
- Influence of *Adhyatma* and *Ananda Ramayana*
- Spiritual metaphors- Three queens- Kausalya –right knowledge, Sumitra- Pure knowledge, Kaikeyi-ignorance and Manthara-bad knowledge
- Description of Kausalya's pregnancy (*Balakanda* 1.92)
- Sixteenth century interpretation of Ramayana- Socio-political context
- Establishing *Ramarajya* by eradicating evil forces like Ravana
- It is warning to the Muslim rulers (*Sundarkanda* 8.144)
- Timeless saga depicting conflict between good and evil

Girdhara Ramayana

- Girdhardas- A Pushtimargiya Vaishnava vanik poet
- Seven cantos, 299 chapters, 9551 stanzas
- Valmiki Ramayana, Hanuman Nataka, Agni Purana and Padma Purana as sources
- Devotional in nature as Rama is considered Narayana
- Novel episodes drawn from other Ramayanas
- Ravana is depicted as epitome of *ahamakara*

Ramayan in Different Countries



Ramayana in the World

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South East Asian versions

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- *Hikayat Seri Rama* of Malaysia
- *Bhanubhakta Ramayana* and *Siddhi Ramayana* of Nepal
- *Kakawin Ramayana* of Old Javanese
- *Ramakavaca*- Bali
- *Yama Zatdaw*- Mynanmar (Burma)
- *Ramayana* of Laos

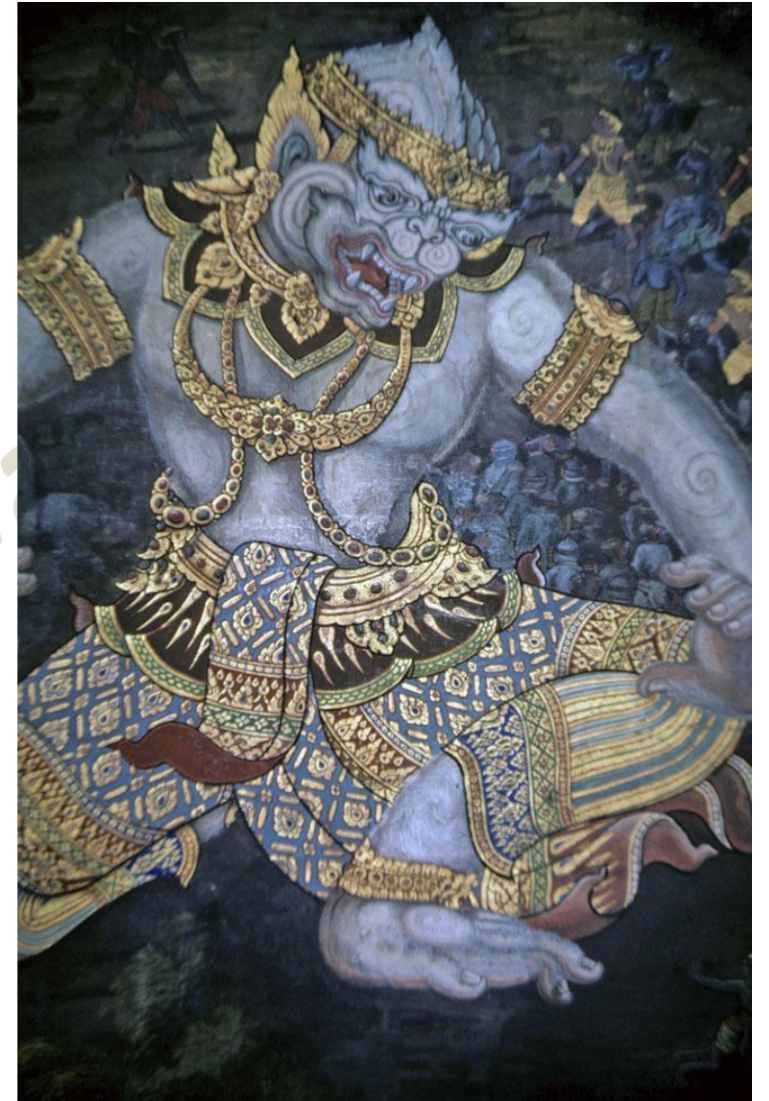
Ramakein / Ramakirti in Thailand

- Great influence of Ramayana from ancient times
- Story came from Cambodia, Java and Malay
- King Ramadhibodhi founded the capital Ayuthaya (1350-1767 CE)
- *Ramakirti* is voluminous composition with multiplication of battle scenes and episodes featuring Hanuman
- King Rama I composed a telling of the Ramayana in fifty thousand verses, Rama II composed new episodes for dance, and Rama VI added another set of episodes, most taken from Valmiki.
- Places in Thailand, such as Lopburi (Skt. Lavapuri), Khidkin (Skt. Kiskindha), and Ayuthia (Skt. Ayodhya) with its ruins of Khmer and Thai art, are associated with Rama legends.
- 178 panels of Emerald Buddha temple have paintings based on Ramayana



Ramayana scene at Wat Phra Kaew (Temple of Emerald Buddha)

Dr. Shakuntala Sawade, Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai



Giant Hanuman mural painting at Emerald Buddha temple

Khon performance



Ramayana in Srilanka

- *Janakiharana* of Kumaradasa (506-516)
- Mahavamsa records –folk traditions pertaining to Ramayana around 12th Century
- Ravana is portrayed as valiant warrior and ardent devotee of Shiva
- His passionate desire for Sita was manifestation of his degeneration
- There are locations associated with Ramayana legends
- Sita Eliya, Ravana Ella, Hakgala, Meligatenna, Ramarsala, Sitawaka and Kelaniya



Sita Eliya



Sita Amma temple at Nuwara Eliya

Kelaniya Vihara

- Palace of Bibhishana-carvings on the wall temple
- Lakshmana depicted as conducting coronation of Bibhishana
- Exclusive Bibhishana temple near Buddhist temple
- Bibhishana was deified to the level of guardian deity



Shadow puppet performance



Tollu Bommalata

- Leather puppet performance
- Kande Ramadasu- Ananthapur-Andhra Pradesh
- His ancestors migrated from Maharashtra to Andhra Pradesh

<https://youtu.be/waVqcW74QDs>

Javanese dance drama



Rama and
hanuman defeat
ravana
**From a javanese
(indonesian)
classical dance-
drama**