

Sunderkand



True Meaning and Message

Sunderkand

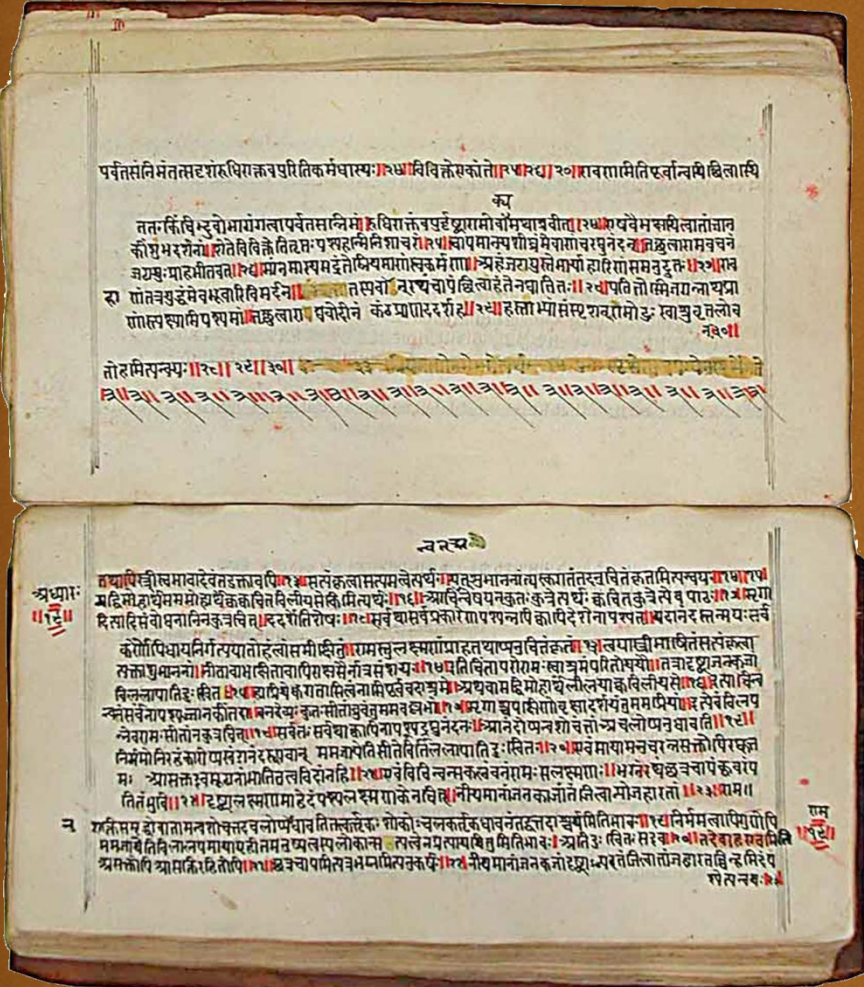
is that part of Ramayana, which, upon regular reading, listening, and deep thinking adorns our lives with spiritual beauty, and our ancestors have proven this to be true.



The Vedantic message of Sundar-Kaand commences with the search for Sri Sitaji; Hanumanji sets off in quest of Sitaji.

This is but a divine pastime, by which the Lord conveys important precepts for proper living.

Sunderkand is verily our own life, an allegory of our noble and virtuous sentiments, in the divine form of Hanumanji.



Indeed, Mateshwari sitaji has many names and many forms.

If we are Vedanti, we call it Peace; In the language of the Yogi, we call it transcendental state,

The Bhakta sees Sitaji manifested in Bhakti.

In the language of Karma-Yoga, perfect divine action is personified by Mateshwari Sri Sitaji.

And the devotee, who seeks wealth, is blessed with riches.

*We all seek the benign Grace of Mother Sitaji,
we want true happiness.*

As indicated before, Mateshwari Sri Sitaji's Grace is manifested in many forms.

Who in this universe does not seek Sri Sitaji's Grace?

From the Yogi, to the seeker of wealth, all creatures seek this Happiness, this Grace of Mother Sri Sitaji.

So this establishment of supreme happiness and peace are the forms of Ma Sitaji.



The meaning of peace is different for different persons,

PEACE



some feel that satisfaction of certain need or desire will provide them with peace, some feel expansion of their worldly business will give them peace,

and like these there are numerous mundane and materialistic desires that are falsely believed by people to bring eternal peace and happiness.



*But peace is the Mother,
peace is supreme grace,
peace is that love of Lord
which He showers upon all of us.*



*In Sundarkand Hanumanji sets out in search of
Ma Sitaji, Who is the avatar of Mahalakshmi.*

*We all know that Hanumanji like a true devotee,
an obedient son and a humble friend sets out to find
and rescue Ma Sitaji.*



This is a story from yore but carries with it a message which finds utmost relevance in our present day lives.

It carries with itself a deep message and that is the search of eternal peace.

Sitaji means Mahalakshmi, which we gladly translate as material prosperity.



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For Vedantic people Sitaji is epitome of peace; it is that skill in performing work which takes us toward supreme and eternal peace; this is the true meaning of Sri Sitaji.

Everybody is in a race, and after some imaginary peace but how many of us are truly able to feel it around us.

The truth is that action or karma should be performed to attain peace and joy and not as a burden.

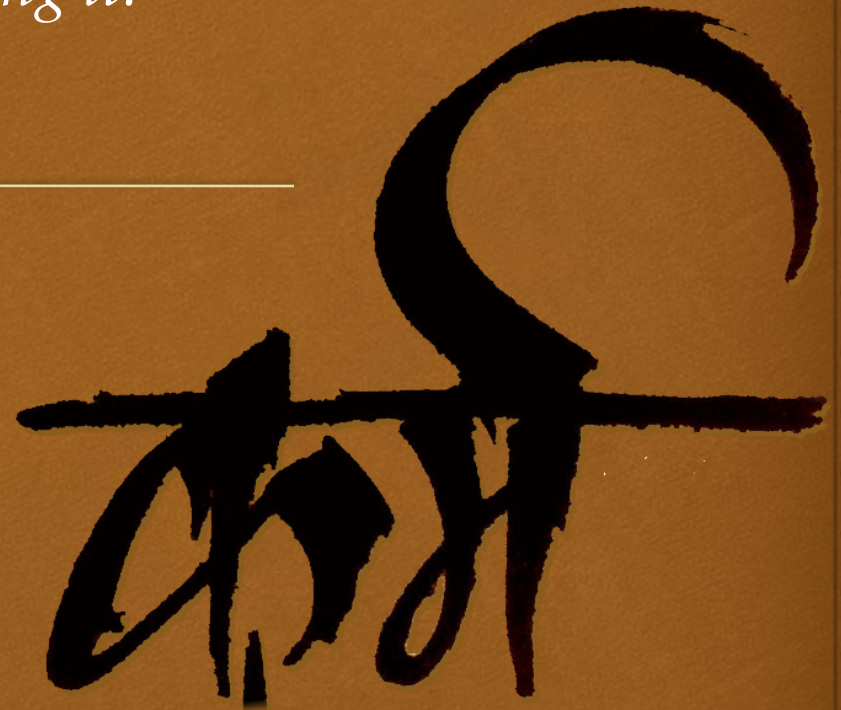
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*There is nothing wrong in being busy doing work,
but when we are driven more by materialism
and less by spirituality,
we lose our **peace** and **happiness** while performing our work,
and we work more mechanically to finish it
and fail to feel the **joy** of performing it.*



*The true meaning of **karma** is;
performance of an action to
attain inner peace.*



If we observe carefully we will find that all the tough works are performed by the nature itself and what has fallen in our share is the easy work.



The only thing that God wanted us to do, while performing our work was to be at peace and feel joy in our actions.





*Sundarkand holds a great
significance in our lives
and conveys to us
numerous messages of
wisdom.*

*Let's take this opportunity
to understand the true meaning and
messages contained in **Sundarkand** which
should always influence and guide our lives.*



At the beginning of Sundarkand the immense army of the Lord gathered near the ocean to search for Ma Sitajiji.

The journey ahead was arduous with fathomless ocean on one side and impenetrable jungle on the other.

Amidst these ominous dangers the only encouraging thing was the knowledge of Ma Sitaji's whereabouts.





Sitaji was across the ocean, at Ashok Vatika and the imminent question was how to reach Her?

Who would be mighty enough to fly across this vast ocean?

What is the message that we are trying to convey through this story?



Often times we set our heart on some work and feel that the fulfillment of it will bring happiness, but at the same time doubts surround us about achieving our goal.





When the army of the Lord found itself confronted with seemingly insurmountable hurdle, then at that time Hanumanji climbed up a tall mountain near the ocean and made Himself ready to face the daunting challenges that lay ahead.



The message being conveyed here is that, we should find courage in our intellect and take a big leap of faith and let the worries drown deep in ocean and allow ourselves to fly high with the wings of faith and determination.

*This is the message from the Lord
to uplift our thoughts and reach for
the peace.*

*With enlightened self we will
certainly experience Ma Sitaji
in the form of peace and success.*

*Have you ever wondered if peace
has ever pervaded the person
with loose thoughts and character?*

The simple explanation is no.



There is a likelihood that we may come across a rabbit with horns, there is a possibility of extracting oil by kneading sand, the saline ocean may turn sweet, but there can never be peace and happiness without uplifted mind and pure thoughts.

I'm sure all of you know that even after scaling a high mountain there is humility in Hanumanji.



We often fail to contain ourselves and never fail to show our pride even for our tiniest achievements.



Feeling of self pride is not entirely wrong, but when complimented with scorn towards others then this pride becomes the bane of our life.

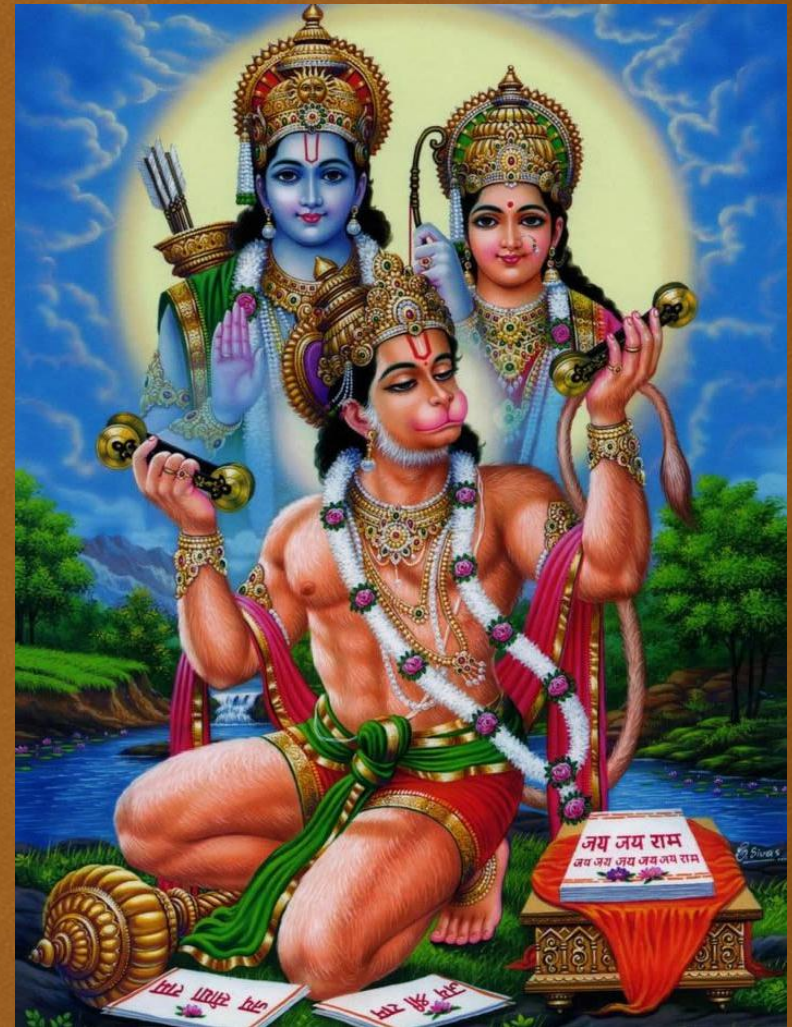
Pride and arrogance detaches us from the grace of the Lord and takes us away from the right path.



For this reason, Hanumanji is trying to educate us on the lesson of humility.

If we desire the experience of Ma Sitaji, that is, peace in our lives then we have to enrich our thinking and make humility an inherent part of our lives.

So we reach the part where Hanumanji after offering his humble obeisance to all takes to air.





In a short time into his flight he observed a mountain rise up from the ocean deeps.

The rising of the mountain indicated an offer to rest. But He thought to Himself that he has just set out on His mission and any rest would certainly be an obstacle for successful fulfillment of the mission.



People who are not sincere in their effort and who are lazy in their actions can never achieve their goal as they lack the faith that is necessary to be successful in one's endeavor.

Hanumanji does not deny the importance of rest, but He emphasizes meaningful and deserved rest.

Paying His due respects to the mountain but humbly denying the comfort of rest offered, Hanumanji continued on His assignment sending a strong message that the effort should be consistent and resolve to fulfill a task should be steadfast.



The path of a true devotee is not easy to trudge



The next obstacle that confronted Hanumanji was Sursajee who dwelled in the depths of the ocean.

Seeing Hanumanji approaching she opened her huge mouth blocking His path.

She invited Hanumanji to enter her mouth, but Hanumanji kindly declined the offer and promised to visit her on His way back.

*Sursajee was adamant and opened her mouth wider,
very much evident how we people act in our lives.*

*Often times when starting a new venture or mission
we lose ourselves in planning and dreaming of enjoying
the fruits of it without any performance of action.*

*Our mind is vulnerable to desires of
materials **and** exercising control is
difficult, but one who is able to rein
his desires is the one who attains true
happiness.*



Hanumanji finding Himself in this difficult situation, shrunk His physical size and made a quick visit to Sursajee's mouth and came out.

The message is that it is important to exercise austerity.

There is nothing wrong in spending and enjoying the fruits of prosperity but one should do so only when one can afford to do and only after accomplishing what we had set out to do.



*“Sweet are the uses of adversity” One has to persevere, has to perform **diligently** before enjoying the fruits of prosperity.*

*One should have desires, but **intellectual ones**, those desires that bring goodness all around.*

It is definitely wrong to become slave to our desires since it deviates us from the path of true karma and spirituality



Now a little further ahead Hanumanji met a lady demon Simhika.

Simhika had this demonic gift that she could stop and catch any living being just by holding their shadow.

She tried to catch Hanumanji but met with her own end.

Simhika represents jealousy, and where ever she resides there is no peace.



*Jealousy is one of the biggest sins
and dwells and grows inside the human mind.*

*It may not be directly evident
but can be felt through
our behavior and interaction with others.*

*People who despise others
because of their success **and** prosperity
certainly are prey to this treacherous trait.*

*Where ever jealousy grows,
the true growth of **intellect and spirituality**
is greatly retarded.*



*Jealousy is like an enemy
which attacks secretly
and it certainly destroys our
capabilities seriously.*

*We should get rid of
jealousy as Hanumanji
got rid of Simhika*

*Hanumanji during this momentous task
left for us many messages to imbibe in our lives.*

*He was confronted by comfort in the form of mountain
but He set it aside humbly, signifying that rest is
mandatory but only when one has worked hard
and deserved it.*



Next His fruitful path was blocked by Sursajee or desires, which He gladly declined and bowed to Sursajee respectfully and continued, because desires exercised in control and for the welfare of others is not wrong.

But when confronted with jealousy He gladly put an end to it sending a strong message, that never in our lives should we ever cave in to the sin of jealousy and we should nip it as soon as we can.



Healthy competition with others is good and engenders a spirit of tolerance and discipline.

Healthy competition leads to progress and prosperity for all and teaches us to meet adversities with fortitude.

With the destruction of jealousy Hanumanji crossed the great ocean and reached Lanka and started to inspect the surroundings around Him.



This is precisely the message conveyed by Sunderkand, that our actions not only should bring completion to our work but also present us with peace and serenity.

We should always bear in mind when Lord manifests Himself among human beings, His presence is for a reason and His deliberate actions educate us and are a lesson for us.

He resides among us to enrich our minds and take us towards the right path.



Lord understands that actions, speak louder than words, and thus refrains from a mere discourse and engages in a practical approach to educate us.

The Lord is Almighty.

He does not need to persevere to achieve anything. Just for the sake of dharma, for truth and righteousness and for the people of this universe.

Almighty becomes one of us and by example He educates and enlightens us.

We may ponder at times, if Lord is all-powerful then why does not He Himself accomplish everything?

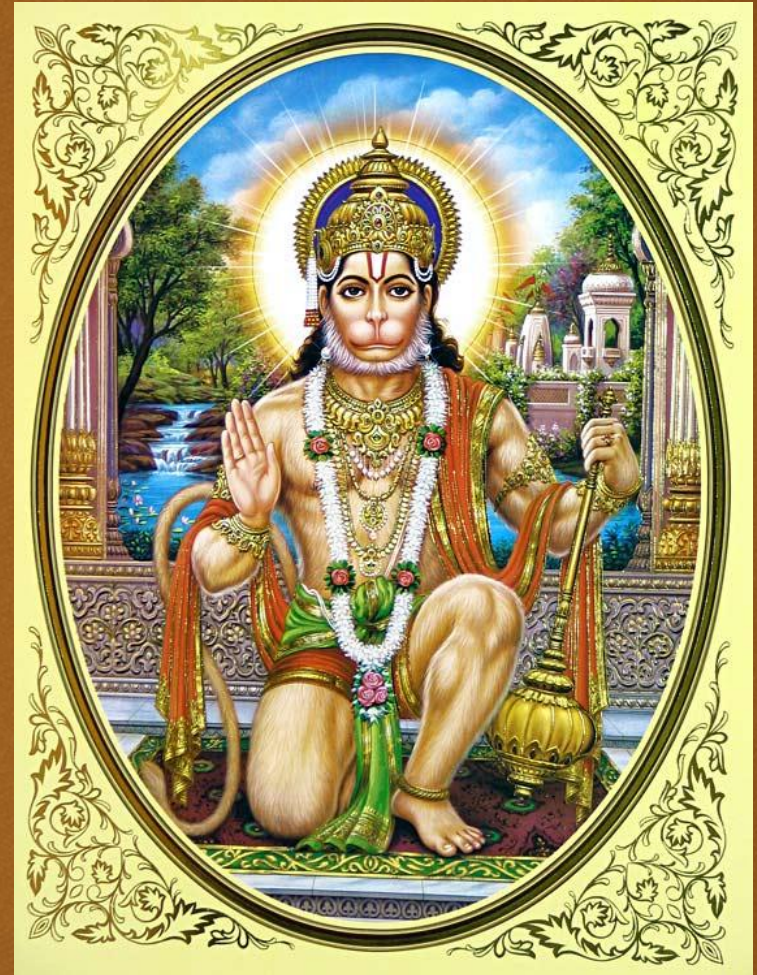
We have to realize that even with human form we can overcome seemingly insurmountable hurdles. The Lord shows us our hidden strengths by achieving such difficult feats by assuming human form and setting an excellent precedent for us.

He adorns our lives in the form of Sitaji and Ramji.



He showers us with His immense grace and bliss in His incarnation of Hanumanji.

He does this all to firmly establish the principles of dharma and justice.



Glory to Lord Hanuman who is the ocean of wisdom and virtue!