

# SRI RAMA NAVAMI - APRIL 21st, 2021

Saint Valmiki wrote Ramayana consisting of seven sections or Kandas, as it is called in Sanskrit. Each Kanda represents a certain time period of Rama's life from birth to the end of the manifestation of his avathara.

- **Bala Kanda** represents his childhood.
- **Ayodhya Kanda** represents his stay in Ayodhya.
- **Aranya Kanda** - Residence in the forest. Sita Matha abducted by Ravana.
- **Kishkindha Kanda** - Visit to meets with Hanuman and Sugreeva.
- **Sundara Kanda** - Search for Sita - Hanuman goes to Lanka.
- **Yuddha Kanda** - War with Ravana and his army.

Amma describes the timeline of Sri Rama's incarnation as per vedic calendar, of his life events and significant occurrences during that time period.

## **Bala Kanda**

**1. Lord Rama Birth** - The birth of Sri Rama took place during Vaivasvata manvantaram in Panchama Maha Treta Yugam, sri vilamba naama year in the 24<sup>th</sup> Maha Yugam on chaithra shuddha navami, Wednesday on the day of Punarvasu nakshatra in the Ascendant Karkataka Abhijit. He was born 18.055 million years ago.

**2. Sri Rama NaamaKaranam** - His nama karana or Naming Ceremony took place 13 days after his birth on Chaitra bahula (Krishna Paksham) saptami.

**3. Upanayanam** took place when he was 8 years old on Chaithra Shuddha in the year called Parabhava.

**4.** Sri Rama at the age of 11years, 10 months, 8 days along with his brother Lakshmana went with Rushi Sri Vishwamitra to protect the performance of a yaga. That day was in the year Soumya, in the month of magha maasa bahula vidiya, (the second day after the full moon or new moon).

**5. Thadiya** - On the third lunar day after the new or full moon, he lived in the kaamashram or grihasthashram, a householder stage.

- 6. Chavithi** - This is when he killed the ferocious demon, Tataki. The purpose for which Rushi Viswamithra took Sri Rama and Lakshmana, was to protect the Yaga to be performed by Viswamithra from the demon, Thataki.
- 7. Panchami** - Rama and Lakshmana entered 'siddhashram' at the commencement of Yajna.
- 8. Dashami** - By 5 days yajna got completed.
- 9. Ekadashi** - Habitation in the banks of the river Shona.
- 10. Dwadashi** - Living in the banks of the river Ganga by afternoon.
- 11. Tryodashi** - Entering a city Vishala Patnam.
- 12. Chaturdashi** - Rama gave liberation to Ahalya, wife of Rushi Gowthama, from her curse and entered Yajna Vatica in the city of Mithila on the same day.
- 13. Amavasya** - Breaking of the Siva Dhanush (bow) and absorbing the power in it.
- 14. Phalguna Shuddha Tadiya** - Janaka (Seetha Matha's father) sent his messengers to Ayodhya proposing alliance for his daughter.
- 15. Shashthi** - The messengers reached Ayodhya on the third day.
- 16. Saptami** - The very next day Sri Dasharatha went with his strong retinue to Mithila for Sri Sita Rama's wedding ceremony.
- 17. Dwadashi** - Dasharatha reached Mithila city of Janaka after 5 days.
- 18. Tryodashi** - Dasharatha performed nandi karma at the time of Magha nakshatra.
- 19. Chaturdashi** - Ghodaana vratam (Donating cows).
- 20. Pournami** - In Uttara nakshatram, kalyanas (marriages) were performed for Sri Rama, Lakshmana, Bharatha, and Shatrughna.
- 21. Bahula Panchami** - Gruha Pravesham in the night where Royal accommodations were provided.
- 22. Ashtami** - 8 days later sage Vishwamitra returned to his ashram.
- 23. Navami** - Sri Janaka, father of Sitha Matha, made wealth offerings to his daughter.
- 24. Dashami** - Destruction of Rushi, Sri Parashurama's ego. Rushi Parasurama, one of Vishnu amsa avathara, was in possession of Vishnu Chapam (Bow) wielded by lord Sri Vishnu. Becoming arrogant with his invincibility, he challenges Sri Rama to lift the bow that belongs to lord Sri Vishnu. Rama lifts the bow with ease, with a single hand to Parasurama's surprise, and destroys the rishi's ego and arrogance. Rishi Parasurama realizing Sri Rama

as Lord Vishnu incarnate absolute (Sampoorna) Avathara, transferred all his powers to Sri Rama by giving lord Vishnu's bow to Sri Rama.

**25.** Dasharatha along with his sons reaches Ayodhya in the year Sadharana on chaithra shuddha Vidiya.

**This is the end of Bala Kanda.**

By now Sri Rama is 12 years 1 month and 10 days old. From that day to till the year Dundubhi he stayed together with Seetha in Ayodhya for 12 years.

### **Ayodhya Kanda**

1. In the year Dundubhi on chaithra masa, shuddha chavithi, Sri Rama fasted for his Pattabhishekam.
2. **Panchami** - Pattabhishekam was interrupted and blocked, and Sri Rama travelled on his journey of vana vasa, residing in the forest and reached the banks of Sarayu river that evening.
3. **Shashthi** - Living on the banks of Ganga river.
4. **Saptami** - Rama tied his hair into a knot like the munis and entered the ashrama life.
5. **Ashtami** - He entered Saint Sri Bharadwaja muni's ashram.
6. **Navami** - He received the order from Bharadwaja muni to leave for the banks of Yamuna where he rested.
7. **Dashami** - They reached Chitra Koot. That same day at midnight dasharatha passed away according to kala dharma (according to his time). From saptami to dashami Guha and Sumantha were with Sri Rama and on the order of Sri Rama, Sumantha reached Ayodhya by evening.
8. **Ekadashi** - Everybody in Ayodhya was lamenting. Were they lamenting for Sri Rama or for Dasharatha? Sri Rama left for the forest on Panchami and until Dashami at midnight Dasharatha had been wailing for Rama and for all those days, he was pining away calling out for Sri Rama kept chanting, "Rama, Rama," until his death.
9. **Dwadashi** - They called for a meeting and sent messengers to Bharata.
10. **Chaturdashi** - The messengers reached the kingdom of Kekeya by that evening. It took them 1½ days to reach that place where Bharatha was visiting his grandfather.

11. **Pournami** - Bharata started his journey to Ayodhya.
12. **Bahula Panchami** - Bharata reached Ayodhya in 5 days.
13. **Shashthi** - Funeral rites for Dasharatha was started by Bharatha.
14. **Amavasya** - End of the funeral rites completed for 10 days. (From the 6th day (shashti) 15th day (amavasya)).
15. **Vaishakha Shuddha Padyami** - "Ashaucha nivritti" Purificatory rites performed during the mourning days followed by "sa pindiikaranam".
16. **Vidiya** - "Sa Pindikaranam" - the main ritual, which is called "sa pindikaranam" on the 12th day was completed.
17. **Tadiya** - Bharata in mourning.
18. **Chavithi** - Intention made to make Bharata, king of Ayodhya and crown him. (Pattabhishekam)
19. **Panchami** - Vandī magadhula stotram
20. **Shasthi** - Bharata's journey to bring back Sri Rama to Ayodhya.
21. **Saptami** - Bharata resides in the banks of the Ganga river and he wears matted locks like Monk's wear. That night he resides in the ashram of Bharadwaja.
22. **Ashtami** - After 1 day journey he reaches Chitra Koot mountain range and has darshan of Sri Ram.
23. **Navami** - Sri Rama as the first son of Dasharatha, on hearing of his father's demise, performs all last rites like taking a bath, offering tarpanam and offering the pindas.
24. **Dashami** - Donating padukas to Bharata. Bharata returns to Ayodhya along with his mothers and family.
25. **Ekadashi** - Bharata reaches Nandigama, a small village near Ayodhya. He performs pattabhishekam to the padukas, lotus feet of Sri Rama.
26. **Chaturdashi** - In the early morning of chaturdashi Sri Seeta, Rama and Lakshmana leave Chitra Koot and reach Atri, Anasuya's ashram and rest there for the night.
27. **Pournami** - The next day they start early in the morning and reach Dandakaranyam.

**Here ends Ayodhya Kanda.**

**Sri Rama's age is 24 years 1 month and 10 Days.**

They were at an age of good health. Yet having been subjected to life in the forest they did not have sufficient food nor a shade to rest under these circumstances. Seetha's age at this time was 16 and Lakshmana's age was a little younger than his brother, Sri Rama. He was 23 years old. During his stay in the forest Sri Rama would appear in the form of a sage.

### **Aranya Kanda**

1. They lived in the forest up to Vaishakha shuddha Pournami.
2. They lived in a forest called "Dandakaranyam" upto margashira masam (Nov/Dec), panchami (the 5th day of the shukla paksha or waxing phase of the moon) in the year Rudhirodhgari. Dandakaranyam was a huge forest and they lived here and there without a permanent residence among ferocious wild animals and demons.
3. The next year was named "Raktakshi," and in that year they lived in another region up to Marga Shira masam (Nov/Dec) panchami.
4. And then they lived in another area in the year "Akshya", till Chaithra shuddha panchami.
5. In this manner they lived in greatly fearful forests. There were no clear pathways and they walked among thorny bushes. They had no proper food nor shade. Seetha had never walked under the scorching sun. They stayed in another place until the year Vibhava, Ashwayuja, shuddha panchami. In that 9 nights they would move to a different place. In this way they would move to different places after only one days stay with no proper accommodation or food to eat or drink.
6. They lived in another place in the year Sukla, kartika shuddha panchami.
7. And they lived elsewhere in the year Prajothpatii, Vaishakha shuddha panchami.
8. They stayed in a different place until Shravana shuddha panchami.
9. They again lived in a different place until the year Angeerasa shuddha chaitra masa shuddha panchami.
10. They stayed in Sudhikshama Ashramam in the year Bhava until chaitra Panchami.
11. The next day they entered Agastya ashram on shashthi.
12. They stayed in a different place from saptami till Yuva nama samvatsara (year) till vaishakha bahula amavasya. They also stayed in the famous Panchavati Ashram in Nasik (State of Maharashtra) where you have 5 Banyan trees on the banks of Godavari. (Nasik is River Godavari's Birthplace).

13. Seetha was abducted by Ravana in Rama and Lakshmana's absence on Jyestha shuddha padyami.

14. Fourteen days later on Pournami they see Shabari an ardent devotee of Sri Rama.

15. They have darshan of Hanuman on bahula padyami.

**By now 13 years and 2 months 10 days of their vana vas is completed.**

**Aranya Kanda is completed.**

### **Kishkindha Kanda**

**(8 months and 27 days)**

1. From Yuva nama samvatsara, Jyestha bahula padyami till amavasya - friendship with Sugriva, and making appropriate decisions.
2. Ashadha shuddha Pournami - killing of Vali, brother of Sugriva.
3. Thereafter, till bahula amavasya - coronation of Sugriva and rajyabhisheka of Angadha yuvaraja pattabhishekam.
4. From Shravana till kartika (August, September, October, and November) Sri Rama stayed in Guha (mountain caves) in the region of Kishkindha mountains in the pravarsana parvata.
5. Marga shiramu (December) Sri Lakshmana gets angry with Sugriva for neglecting his promise to Rama of finding Seeta. All the Vanaras gather to strategize their search for Sita and are eventually sent on the search for Sita.
6. The vanaras searched for 12 days in the southern direction.
7. They stayed in the vindhya mountains for one month and another month in Bilu.
8. Their march towards the ocean on phalguna shuddha dwadashi. There they met Sampathi and got information about Ravana and about his city Lanka.

**This is the end of Kishkindha Kanda.**

The time spent in exile was by now 13 years, 11 months, and 7 days.

## **Sundara Kanda**

**(One and half days only)**

1. Yuva nama samvatsara phalguna shuddha tryodashi - Hanuman in the morning crossed the Mahendra parvatam and then the ocean, and traveled in the sky and reached Lanka by sunset.
2. He rested in the ramboda parvatam till it got dark, and then reached Lanka by pradasha time and killed demon Lankini who was guarding the main entrance to Lanka.
3. Early in the morning, he went in search of Sita in Ravana's and Prahastha's and other Minister's houses and could not find Sita Matha anywhere. He then reached and entered Ashoka vanam and climbed on the Shimshupa tree.
4. He talks to Sita Devi in the morning. In the war that broke out, Asoka vanama was destroyed, and thousands of rakshas were killed in Asoka Vanam, where Sita Matha was in captivity.
5. Later Hanuman kills minister warrior Jambumalini and Ravana's son Akshayakumar.
6. Ravana's son Indrajit captures Hanuman, and presents him in Ravana's assembly, and Hanuman has a conversation with Ravana. He later puts fire to Lanka.
7. He then crosses the sea again and meets with other Vanaras.
8. The Vanaras together with Hanuman journey towards Kishkindha. They reach Kishkindha on chaturdashi in the evening.

**This is the end of Sundara Kanda.**

**Till now Sri Sita, Rama and Lakshmana spent 13 years 11 months and 8 days and 30 hours.**

## **Yuddha Kanda**

**(Twenty- one and half days)**

1. Rama and his army of Sugriva's battalion started for the war on Yuva nama samvatsara in the month of Phalguna, first fortnight of Pournami day according to the Hindu calendar.
2. The next day they reached the seashore of Indian ocean in the evening within 24 hours on Bahula Padyami i.e., the first day of the second fortnight of Phalguna.
3. The next four days up to chavithi (4th day of the second fortnight) they settled down and slept. Then they prayerfully asked the divine ocean for the way to Lanka.
4. That evening they started the construction of the bridge on the ocean that same evening without any delay. They took time from the evening of chavithi till ashtami to construct the 'sethu'.
5. So, the construction of the sethu bridge was done in four and a half days (chavithi ½ day + the other four days).
6. **Navami** - Beginning of the war between Rama and Ravana armies.
7. **Dashami** - Killing of Prahasta, Ravana's minister. Fall of Ravana's kirita, crown falls down and he goes back to his palace in shame.
8. **Tryodashi** - Killing of Indrajit early in the morning after he does puja to Nikumbhala Devi.
9. Destruction of Ravana's powers (inner powers are represented by his 10 heads and the pot of nectar in his stomach that he had swallowed) accumulated through his tapas and worship to Brahma and Siva.
10. Killing of Ravana early in the morning on amavasya. Rama fought this war mainly to restore dharma.
11. **Vidiya** - Coronation of Vibhishana, Ravana's brother for Lanka.
12. **Tadiya** - Next day Sita undergoes the trial by entering the fire to prove her chastity and purity showing that she is like fire.
13. **Chavithi** - Without wasting any time they started to travel to Ayodhya the very next day.
14. **Panchami** - They reached Kishkindha and stayed in Bharadwaja's ashram.

**Thus, ends their 14-year exile on this day.**

15. They first came to Bharadwaja's ashram. This marked the completion of their 14-year exile and the maharshi himself is a witness to this fact.
16. Shashthi in the month of Chaithra - They leave early in the morning by pushpaka vimana and enter Nandigam.
17. **Saptami** - Coronation of Sri Ramachandra Prabhu and Sita is performed. Sri Sita Rama Pattabhishekam.

**Sri Raaghavam dasharadhaatmaja maprameiyam**

**Sithapatim raghu kulaanvaya ratna deepam**

**Ajanubaahum aravinda dalaayataaksham**

**Ramam nisharachara vinashakaram namami.**