



आराधना

Aradhana

A Publication of the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati
Devdham of North America™

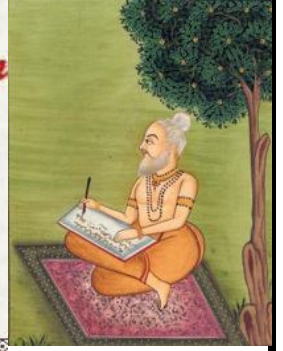
Falgun/Chaitra
Vikram Samvat, 2064
April 2008

April, The Month of Festivals

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Goswami Tulsidas



Mahrshi Valmiki

RAMAYAN OF MAHRSHI VALMIKI AN EPIC DEVOTED TO LORD RAM

Meena Mehta

"Aapadaam apahartaaram daataaram sarvasaMpadaam.h..
Lokaabhiraamam shriiraamam bhuuyo bhuuyo namaamyaham.h .."

"I bow again and again to Shri Ram who removes (all) obstacles and grants all wealth and pleases all."

This is a salutation offered at the start of reading any scripture of Shri Ram as per tradition. This prayer is for removing all obstacles encountered. The prefix Shri stands for Goddess Laxmi, which indicates that Ram is always accompanied by Shri, His consort Sita in the form of Goddess Lakshmi who is the consort of Lord Vishnu.

Introduction

In the month of April we celebrate many festivals some of which are traditional and some are to welcome spring and express our joy. RamNavmi, the birthday of Shri Ram is one of the traditional festivals. It is celebrated by performing 'Akhand Ramayan Path' of RamCharitManas written by Goswami Tulsidas in 1577 in Avadhi (Eastern Hindi) language.

There is an original Ramayan called Valmiki Ramayan composed in Sanskrit, by Maharshi Valmiki about 11,000 years ago. This has been translated in many Indian languages as well in English and is well read because of its philosophical matters and values. But Tulsi Ramayan is more popular because of its simpler version. Here, let us read about Valmiki Ramayan.

The word Ramayan is made up of two Sanskrit words Ram and A(a)yan. **Ram** is the hero of the epic and Ram as a Sanskrit word, carries more than forty different meanings. **A(a)yan** means Journey as well as Adventure. Thus Ramayan means

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Note: If you or someone you know, is not receiving ARADHANA, or if you need a change in address, please contact Mr. Mohan Chopra at 859-331-2416 or Meena Mehta at 513-574-6763.

Deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the next issue is April 10, 2008

HSGC TEMPLE INFORMATION

<p>EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2008</p> <p>President: Raj Bodalia 583-0184</p> <p>V. President: Rameshwar Dayal 474-4051</p> <p>Secretary: Siva Shivaganeshan 563-2901</p> <p>Treasurer: Amar Sharma 742-5725</p> <p>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p> <p>Pooja Committee: Bobba Choudhary 984-6074</p> <p>Communications/Editor: Meena Mehta 574-6763 email: minaash@hotmail.com</p> <p>Member: Aashish Shah 942-8264 email: aashish.shah@yahoo.com</p> <p>Membership & Fundraising: Hari Maddali 985-9255</p> <p>Property Management & Maintenance: Shiv Sharma 459-9520</p> <p>Cultural Activities: Jyoti Desai 745-0876</p> <p>Religious Education & Youth Activities: Manju Gupta 232-3331</p> <p>Long Range Planning: Jitu Patel 459-8900</p> <p>Youth Member: Surbhi Sharma 807-5081</p>	<p>RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE Sundays 12:15 - 12:45 PM</p> <p>First Sunday : Upanishads Second Sunday : Children Program Third Sunday : Sunder Kand Path Fourth Sunday : Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path Fifth Sunday : Open (Please Suggest)</p> <p>Members of the community are invited to speak on topics related to Hindu religion, Philosophy, culture, reformation, Gurus, self-preservation, etc. If you would like to talk or like to suggest someone who may be interested, , please call Bobba Chaudhary at 513-984-6074</p> <p>SPONSORS FOR SUNDAY Pooja</p> <p>Devotees are requested to sit-in Sunday Pooja as well as bring Prasad and Lunch. You may wish to use this occasion to celebrate important events such as wedding anniversaries, birthdays, ishta devata pooja, graduation, and other memorable days. Events can be hosted by individuals, families, groups of families or organizations. Please reserve your Sunday of choice ASAP by putting your name and phone-no in the calendar at the temple and calling Bobba Chaudhary at (513) 984-6074</p>	<p>2008 POOJA COMMITTEE & RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES MEMBERS</p> <p>To participate in/ sponsor please contact a Pooja Committee chairperson & member or Temple.</p> <p>Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074 Acharya Kailash Sharma 770-0705 Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma 528-0901 Sri Srinivas Bhattar 528-3714 Hindu Temple 528-3714</p> <p>Madhu Sharma 232-9991 Kiran Dayal 474-4051 Suchitra Mishra 573-9775 Rani Dhameja 984-5777 Sameer Rao 793-5821 Meena Karamchandani 683-9454 Kalpana Srivastava 233-9184 Uma Sanguai 793-9384 Muralee 573-0550 Minati Bhattacharya 272-0361 Vasundhra Dasari 777-3353 Anee Deka 336-9554 Manju Gupta 232-3331 Sangita Patel 791-0855</p>
<p>Priests:</p> <p>Acharya Kailash Sharma 770-0705 Acharya Chakreshwar Sharma 528-0901</p> <p>Sri Srinivas Bhattar 528-3714</p> <p>Attorney: Aronoff, Rosen & Hunt 241-0400</p> <p>Temple Manager: Laxmi Srivastava 474-0533</p> <p>Accountant: Open</p>	<p>TEMPLE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Monday - Friday : 9:00AM-12:00 Noon 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</p> <p>Saturday, Sunday & US Holidays 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM</p> <p>SPECIAL PROGRAM ON WEEKENDS</p> <p>9:15 - 9:30 A.M. Suprabhatam 9:30 - 11:00 A.M. Daily pooja of Temple Deities 11:00 - 11:30 A.M. Sponsored Pooja 11:30 - 12:15 A.M. Bhajan 12:15 - 12:45 P.M. Religious discourse 12:45-1:00 P.M. Birthday and Anniversary pooja and announcement</p> <p>1:00 P.M. Aarti</p> <p>Please Donate Generously for your Temple</p> <p>Your Temple needs</p> <p>1. Sponsors for flower \$50/week 2. Sponsors for Sunday pooja 3. Your temple needs your support</p>	<p>Temple Manager's Committees</p> <p>Laxmi S. Srivastava- Temple Manager 474-0533</p> <p>1. Office Manager Mohan Chopra</p> <p>2. I/C Swami Lectures Laxmi S. Srivastava Vinay Kumar Devdas Mukerjee Meena Mehta Bobba Choudhary</p> <p>3. Temple Data Base Nandkumar Khemchandani Mohan Chopra Laxmi S. Srivastava</p> <p>4. Anniversary & Birthday Data Raj Agarwal</p> <p>5 E-mail .Data Pradeep Goyal Nandkumar Khemchandani</p> <p>6. Membership & Gift Shop Madhu Sharma Meena Sondhi</p> <p>7. Computer Tech Support Sreedhar Suvarana Aashish Shah</p> <p>8. Financial Data Amar Sharma Raj Bodalia Laxmi S. Srivastava</p> <p>9. I/C Temple Web site Bharat Vala Anand Narayana Khush Karamchandani Laxmi S. Srivastava</p> <p>10. I/C Temple Calendar Meena Mehta Ashvin Mehta Acharya Kailash Sharma</p> <p>11. I/C Volunter Services Vijay Kumar Laxmi S. Srivastava</p>

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Pooja Information

RATES FOR POOJA & PRIEST SERVICES |

SERVICE	IN TEMPLE	OUTSIDE TEMPLE
Abhishekam (All Deities)	\$101.00	—
Aksharabhyas	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anna-Prashanam	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ashtottharam (108) Archana	\$21.00	—
AyushyaHomam/B'day Celebra.	\$101.00	\$151.00
Ground Breaking Ceremony	—	\$151.00
Griha Pravesh	—	\$151.00
Kalayana Uthsava (Lord Ram/ Sita)	\$121.00	—
Kesh Khandan (Churakaran)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nam-Karan	\$101.00	\$151.00
Navagraha Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Nischitartham (Engagement)	\$151.00	\$251.00
Nitya (1 Day) Kainkaryam (Seva)	\$101.00	—
Poolangi Seva (With Flowers)- (Only During Off Winter Season)	\$101.00	—
Regular Archana	\$11.00	—
Sahasranama (1008) Archana	\$51.00	—
Sathyanarayana Pooja	\$101.00	\$151.00
Seemantham	\$101.00	\$151.00
Devi Jagaran	\$75.00	\$101.00
Akhand Ramayan Paath	—	\$151.00
Shashti Poorthi (60th B'day Celeb.)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Anniversary celebration	\$101.00	\$151.00
Suprabhat Seva	\$21.00	—
Unjal (Swing) Seva	\$31.00	—
Upakarma (thread changing)	\$51.00	—
Upanayam/Brahmopadesham/ Thread Ceremony	\$151.00	\$251.00
Vahan Pooja	\$51.00	—
Yearly Shradham (Barkhi)	\$101.00	\$151.00
Wedding	\$301.00	\$501.00

SPECIAL POOJA RATE

Rates for Mata Ki Chauki performed at another temple will be 15% of the money collected at the temple or a minimum of \$ 501.00.

1. Poojas performed by priests outside the temple will be rated according to the number of poojas performed.
2. 40 Cents/Miles for Travel expanse to the Priest to perform pooja at your home.

Rates are subject to change without notice. Rates of Poojas out of Greater Cincinnati will be \$100.00 more than the rates of outside pooja within greater Cincinnati area.

Temple Rental: Lower Floor Only

	Fullday	Halfday
Monday -Thursday (except holidays)	\$301	\$151
Friday, Saturday & Holidays	\$501	\$351
<u>Sunday after 3PM only</u>	—	\$351

Note: For half day select one of the two:

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM **OR** 4:00PM to 11:00 PM

Temple rental applies to all private reservations for those events/poojas that are performed by private parties and not announced in the temple.

Security/ Cleaning deposit: \$151 required. This deposit will be forfeited if the basement hall bathrooms and kitchen area are not cleaned by the party renting the place.

NOTE: To schedule a Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level) please contact pooja Committee chairperson only.

Pooja Committee Announcement:

To schedule a Pooja or to rent a temple hall (lower level)
please contact Babba Chaudhury at 984-6074

If you have any question or suggestion about temple activities contact Babba Chaudhury at 984-6074, any EC Members or Temple at 528-3714.

1. **Archana** performed during temple hours by sponsorship. No Archana on Sundays between 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
2. **Outside poojas** and other religious services will be conducted by appointment only.
3. To **schedule any poojas** please contact Pooja Committee chairperson at least one week in advance.
4. If you would like to bring **food and prasad** in the temple, Please contact Pooja Committee chairperson .
5. **Cancellations** of pooja should be done 3 days in advance or else the full fee for the pooja will be charged.

Shanti Path

In memory of **Mr. Raj Minocha** Shanti Path will be conducted on April 20th Sunday at 4pm in the Temple. All family friends are invited to join in .Prasad &Dinner will follow after Shanti Path.
Minocha Family

General Body Meeting

**HSGC General Body Meeting is scheduled for
June 1st, Sunday at 11 AM
The meeting Agenda:**

1. **President's report**
2. **Treasure's report**
3. **Secretary's report**
4. **Long Range Planning Committee Chair's Report on Community Center Project.**
5. **Appointment of the chair person for the Retirement Community Center Project**

Regular Weekly & Monthly Events at the Temple

Monthly Navgrah Pooja

Every first Saturday of the Month

April 5th Saturday 3 pm to 5:30 pm

Sponsors needed for Pooja \$51.00

For Details please call

Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074; Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Murugan Abhishekham /Pooja

Every second Saturday of the Month

April 12th Saturday 4.00pm

Sponsored by Murugan Group.

Please contact Bobba Choudhary :984-6074.

Monthly Satya Narayan Pooja

On Every Purnima of the Month

April 20th Sunday 5:00 pm

Sponsorship \$ 51.00

To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074

Temple priests: 528-3714

Monthly Sundarkand Path

April 20th Sunday 10:30 am

Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074 Acharya Kailashji: 770-0705

Temple Priests: 528-3714

Monthly Shri Ganesh Pooja & Shri Ganesh Atharvshirsha Path

Every 4th Sunday of the month: April 27th Sunday

This pooja is dedicated to each month's

Sankashti Chaturthi to Lord Ganesh.

For more information & Sponsor the pooja please call

Anuradha Kulkarni: 271-2749 Uma Sangvai: 793-9384

Kiran Dayal: 474-4051 Temple Priests: 528-3714

Monthly ABHISHEKAM/KALYANOTSAVAM FOR LORD SRI VENKATESWARA

On 4th Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM-12:30PM.

To sponsor and details please call any of the following:

Anand Konda: 481-4119 Vasundhara Dasari: 777-3353

Suseela Paturi: 867-8591 Vicheta Pemmaraju: 398-9833

Sailaja Gannamraj: 697-1412 Usha Indrakanti: 583-5995

Weekly Shiv Mahiman Stotram

Every Monday at 6:30pm

Weekly Hanuman Chalisa Path

Every Tuesday at 6:30pm

To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074

Temple priests: 528-3714

Weekly Vishnu Sahashranaam Parayana

Vishnu Sahashranaama Parayana (chanting) will now take place Every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the temple.

Please join us for the chanting.

For more information, please contact Temple priest s: 528-3714

Weekly Venkateswar Pooja

Every Friday at 6:30pm

To sponsor pooja please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074

Temple priests: 528-3714

Bhagavad - Geeta Class

For children and parents

(Presented by CHESS Balvihar)

- ⇒ Bhagavad-Gita is the manifest quintessence of all the teachings of the Vedic scriptures. - Adi Sankara
- ⇒ The Bhagavad-Gita is the most systematic statement of spiritual evolution of endowing value to mankind. *It is one of the most clear and comprehensive summaries of perennial philosophy ever revealed; Its enduring value is subject not only to India but to all of humanity.*
-Aldous Huxley
Join us in understanding and appreciating the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad-Geeta.

When: Fourth Sunday of the month, 11am to 12:45pm

Where: The Hindu Temple

Taught by: Sri Koti Sreekrishna,

Notes with transliteration guide (Sanskrit to English) provided.

Contact

Manju Gupta: 232 - 3331 Vasanta Vemuri: 232- 5767

Vasant (Chaitra) NavRatri Celebration From April 6th Sunday to 13th Sunday

Kalash Sthapana: April 6th Sunday 10:00 am

CHANDI PATH & Shri Durga Pooja Everyday - April 6th to 13th

10:00 am to 12:00 noon and

5:00pm to 6:00pm

Durga Ashtami Puja & Havan

Sunday April 13th 4:00pm

Sponsorship for Chandi path, Puja & Havan \$51.00

Please call Bobba Choudhary: 984-6074, Acharya Kailash Sharma: 770-0705 or Temple: 528-3714 for details.

Hanuman Jayanti Celebration

On

April 20th Sunday 10am to 1 pm

10:00am Shri Hanuman Puja

10:30 108 Sundarkand path

Sponsored by Amit & Juhi Shukla.

We need 108 devotees for path. Please come on time to participate in path. Please call Booba Chaoudury: 984-6074, Acharya Kailash: 770-0705, Sangita Patel: 791-0855, Dr. U.K. Patel: 985-0084 or Temple: (513)528-3714 to give your names.

Tamil New Year Celebration

On April 13th Sunday 4pm

Sri Murugan Abhishekam

Sponsored by - Murugan Devotees.

Shri Mahavir Jayanti Celebration

On April 27th Sunday 11am to 1pm

Sponsored by – Cincinnati Jain Community.

Ganesh Puja & Athrvashirsh Path will be 10am to 11am.

Upcoming Events at the Temple

April 2008 Highlights

April 6 Sun: Vasant NavRatri begins, Gudi Padva, Yugadi,
New Samvat 2065 begins
April 12 Sat: Akhand Ramayan Path begins 11:00am
April 13 Sun: Akhand Ramayan Path Ends
Tamil New Year Celebration-2040 begins
Durga Ashtami Pooja 4:00pm
April 14 Mon: Ram Navami: Pooja 11:30am
April 18 Fri: Mahavir Jayanti
April 20 Sun: Hanuman Jayanti Celebration, 108 Sundarkand
Path 10:00am; SatyaNarayan Pooja 5:30pm
April 24-25: Sri Venkateshwar Drahmothavan
Details to follow in April Aradhana
April 27 Sun: Mahavir Jayanti Celebration 11:00am

Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti Celebration

On Sunday May 4th 10 am to 1pm
Program: 10:30am Shri Nathaji Pooja
11:15am Krishna Bhajan
12:15am Discourse
1:00pm Aarati
Followed by Mahaprasad and Lunch
For details Please call Temple 513 - 528-3714 or
any Shrinathaji Devotees.

May 2008 Events

May 1 Thur: Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti
Varuthini Ekadashi
May 4 Sun: Shri Vallabhacharya Jayanti Celebration
May 7 Wed: Shri Parshuram Jayanti
May 8 Thur: Shri Ramanujacharya Jayanti
May 9 Fri: Shri Shankaracharya Jayanti
May 15 Thur: Mohini Ekadashi
May 16, 17, 18 Gayatri Yagya
May 17 Sat: Temple's 11th Anniversary Day 1
May 18 Sun: Temple's 11th Anniversary Day 2
Shri Narasinh Jayanti
May 19 Mon: Bhagavan Buddha Jayanti
Satya Narayan Pooja
May 31 Sat: Aparajita Ekadashi

Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati cordially invites
you with family & friends in celebration of
11th Anniversary of our Temple

Gayatri Yagya

May 16th 17th & 18th

Details to follow in next month of Aradhana.

**Need Volunteers and Sponsors to make
this event Successful.**

Please call Temple 513 - 528-3714.

Shri RamNavami Celebration AKHAND RAMAYAN PATH

(Shri Ramcharit Manas)

Begins on April 12th Saturday

10:30 am Shri Ram Puja 11:30 Ramayana Path Starts

We need volunteers to read Ramayana. Please call

Kiran Dayal 474-4051 or

**Acharya Kailash: 770-07 05 to give your names to make
schedule.**

AKHAND RAMAYAN PATH

Ends On April 13th Sunday 12:30 pm

**Event is sponsored by: Shri Rameshwar & Kiran Dayal
and their family.**

INTERESTED ???

A ten year old boy who is well versed in Sanskrit and Hindi wants to promote his learning. He and his mom are willing to work with person/s to develop dramas, skits etc. in both the languages for kids. If interested call Anupa Mirle at 513-509-8477.

Garland Donors

The expenses for the Garlands for Deities are donated by the devotees for the past 5 years.

Following is the list of donors for the year 2008.

Lord Ganesha:	Vinayak and Anuradha Kulkarni
Lord Shiva:	Prem and Sneh Garg
Lord Hanuman:	Srinivas and Shanthi Karri
Devi Saraswati:	Prasad and Annapoorna
	Chandra+Bhaskara Rao
	and Suseela Paturi
Devi Lakshmi:	Rajasekhar and Mala Lakkaraju
Devi Durga:	Anil and Vineeta Jindal
Lords Lakshmi Narayan:	Choudhary and Rani
	Bobba+Madhava Rao
	and Vasundhara Dasari
Lord Sri Venkateswara:	Harinadh and Srilakshmi Pisati
Lords Ram-Sita:	Ramineni Family+Rangasai and
	Lakshmi Jyotsna Bramhandam
Lords Radha- Krishna:	Raghu and Rekha Tadepalli
Lord Shrinathji:	Jitubhai and Usha Patel
Lord Jagannath:	Jagannadh Parivar
Lord Chitragupta:	Lakshmi and Prem Srivatsava
For more information please call Vasundhara Dasari at 513-777-3353	

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Journey as well as Adventure. Thus Ramayan means Journey of Shri Ram or Adventures of Shri Ram.

'RamCharitManas' is three Sanskrit words: Ram, Charit and Manas combined.

Now we know the meaning of word Ram. Charit means Deeds or Actions and Manas means Lake. Thus the meaning of 'RamCharit Manas' is 'The Lake of the Deeds or Actions of Ram'.

Shrimad Valmiki Ramayan

The Valmiki Ramayan is included in the 'Smriti' category of Hindu Scriptures which is translated as 'from memory'. It is an epic of Sanskrit literature which narrates the journey of virtue to annihilate vice. It is believed that Ram lived in Treta Yug, the third millennium BC and Ramayan was set during the same period. Many interpret this as 8000 BC (based on astrological data in the Ramayan. There are some who believe that it's even older. If the hypothesis that the Ramayan is a mythologized description of an Aryan invasion then the date would be 1500 BC. But we are more concerned here with what Ramayan teaches and tells us rather than when it was told.

Valmiki Ramayan, the original and oldest version of Ramayan is the basis of all the various versions of the Ramayan that are relevant in the various Indian cultures. The text survives in numerous complete and partial manuscripts. The oldest surviving of which is dated from the eleventh century AD. The current text of Valmiki Ramayan has come down to us in two regional versions, one from the north and the second from the south of India.

Structure of Valmiki Ramayan

Shrimad Valmiki Ramayan is composed of 24,001 Shlok(s) (Verses) in Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language and a complex meter called Anustup. These verses are grouped into individual chapters called Sarg(s) wherein, a specific event or intents is told. These Sarg(s) are grouped into books called Kand(s) (Cantos). Kand means the part of the stem of sugar cane (or a branch of a tree) in between the two internodes (knots). It also means a particular phase of a story or an event in the course of a story telling. The entire text of Shrimad Valmiki Ramayan is arranged into seven Kand(s) as follows.

1 Bal Kand (Book of the young [Ram](#)) (**77 chapters**): it details the miraculous birth of Ram, his early life in [Ayodhya](#), his slaying and killing of the demons of the land at the request of [Vishvamitra](#) and his wedding with [Sita](#).

2 Ayodhya Kand (Book of Ayodhya) (119 chapters): in which [Dasharath](#) comes to grief over his promise to [Kaikeyi](#) and the start of Ram's exile.

3 Aranya Kand (Book of the Forest) (75 chapters): which describes Ram', Sita and laxman's life in the forest and the abduction of Sita by Ravan.

4 Kishkindha Kand (Book of Kishkindha, the Vanar Kingdom) (67 chapters): in which Ram befriends [Sugriva](#) and the Vanar army begin the search for Sita.

5 Sundar Kand (Book of Sundar ([Hanuman](#))) (68 chapters): in which Hanuman travels to Lanka and finds Sita imprisoned there and brings back the good news to Ram.

6 Lanka Kand (Book of the War) (131 chapters): narrates the Ram-Ravan war and the return of the successful Rama to Ayodhya and his coronation.

7 Uttar Kand - (Later Book or Epilogue) (111 chapters): which details the life of Ram and Sita after their return to Ayodhya, Sita's banishment, birth of Luv and Kush and how Sita and Ram pass on to the next world.

It is the Journey, the Adventures of a prince Ram of Ayodhya whose wife, Sita is abducted by the demon king of Lanka, Ravan. It's the tradition to read Ramayan with the others as a group. This stipulation is not obligatory to Uttar Kand wherein, Sita's expulsion to forest takes place.

Interpolation and Redaction

Valmiki Ramayan is dated variously from 8000 BC to 1500BC to 500 BC to 100 BC. As with most traditional epics, it has gone through a long process of interpolations and redactions and therefore it is impossible to date it accurately.

While stabilizing the original text of Ramayan, historians surmised that portions of two kand(s) namely Kand 1: Bal Kand and Kand 7: Uttar Kand are later additions. This is because of many differences in style and some contradictions in content between these two chapters and the rest of the Ramayan. However Bal Kand is considered to be an original version except for some injected stories. Thus two Kand(s) (Books) contain the interpolations found in the Ramayan, such as the miraculous birth of Ram and his divine nature as well as the numerous legends surrounding [Ravan](#). It is also inferred that the story of Ram's beheading of Skhoodra Shambuk and the story of Shravan kumar were not written by Valmiki.

The bulk, consisting of Kand(s) 2 to 6 represents Ram as an ideal hero. In Kand 1 and 7, however Ram is made an Avatar or incarnation of Vishnu, and the epic poem is transformed into a Vaishnav text. Story starts from the fifth chapter of Bal Kand.

In short, in the original Valmiki Ramayan, Valmiki wrote that Ram was an ideal human being. However, Brahminical with reshaping and manipulation of the Ramayan eventually presented Ram as a supreme deity.

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The first stage of Valmiki Ramayan includes the composition of Kand 2 to 6 (according to one opinion, sometime in the fifth century BCE) and their oral transmission (from memory i.e.'Smriti') took place after about 100 years (by the same opinion, forth century BCE). The presentation of Ram in this first stage was as a human hero.

The second stage extends 500 years (by the same opinion, from the third century BCE to the first century CE), during which time Kand 2 to 6 were reworked and expanded. This period brings greater status for the prince, for this period, Ram was viewed as an ethical human.

The third stage extends 300 years (from the first to the third century BCE?), bringing with it first, the addition in the Bal Kand and little later, composition of the entire Uttar Kand (Epilogue). This stage is marked by the presentation of Ram as an avatar of Vishnu. This stage also produced a pronounced emphasis on Varn-Dharma: Shambuk, the Skhudra ascetic, is killed by Ram in order to bring a Brahmin boy back to life.

Theologists worship Shri Ram as a God incarnate, philosophers make him the Absolute and materialists condemning the above, appreciate the lyrical values of Ramayan, but as a great devotee-singer said "Whoever calls you in whatever way, you are that One".

Legend of Mahrishi Valmiki

Mahrshi Valmiki birth name Ratnakar, was from a [Kirata Bhil](#) community. He was the tenth child of Pracheta. As a young man he was known as Valia before he composed the Ramayan and became the Adi-Kavi (Prime Poet). He was inspired by the [Narad Muni](#), the great devotee of Narayan, the Lord Vishnu.

One fine day, Narad Muni was passing through this forest and Valia Bhil happened to confront him. Narad Muni, with his sweet voice and commanding accent, asked Valia if he knew what he was doing. Valia replied that it was that which fed his family and the family was aware of it. Then Narad Muni asked Valia if his family members would share a part of a burden of his sins? Valia wondered! and was so moved with this that he ran back home and asked every member of the family if they will share his sins, if needed. No member of the family, neither his wife nor his sons replied in assertive. His wife said that the sins Valia was doing everyday were the part of his life and it was his duty to feed his family and it was only he who was responsible for the sins he committed. Hearing this he was not only disappointed but shocked. He left home, quit everything and went to the forest to perform vigorous penance until he achieved true knowledge.

Years after, Valia transformed completely, from a dacoit to a [Sage](#). One day Narad Muni returned to Valia. Valia now known as Valmiki, requested him to help enlighten him. Valmiki asked Naradji, "O Venerable Rishi! Please tell me whether there is a perfect one in this world who is virtuous, brave, dutiful, truthful, noble, steadfast in duty, and kind to all beings".

Naradji replied, "There is such a one, a prince of Ikshvaku royal line named Ram. He is virtuous, brave, gentle, and wise. He is a great hero. He loves his subjects immensely. He is a protector of Dharma. He is firm and steadfast. He is just and liberal. He is well-versed in the Vedas and in the science of arms. He is unique in the possession of virtues and matchless in beauty. He is an obedient son, a kind brother, loving husband, a faithful friend, an ideal king, a merciful enemy, and a lover of all living beings. All people adore him."

Then Naradji narrated the story of Shri Ram to Rishi Valmiki as he had heard it from Lord Brahma which was only 100 verses long. It is called 'Sankshipta Ramayan' ('Short Ramayan'). That story of Ram filled the mind and thoughts of Valmiki and he kept thinking about it over and over again, all the time.

There is a legend that Lord Brahma appeared before Rishi Valmiki and told him to write the Ramayan for the people on the earth. Many believe that Rishi Valmiki is an avatar of Lord Brahma.

First Shlok, First Poem and First Poet

One day Rishi Valmiki was going to the holy Ganga River to bathe. A disciple named Bharadwaj was with him carrying his clothes. On the way they came across the river Tamsa. The water of the river was very clear. The Rishi said to Bharadwaj "Look, how clear is this water, like the mind of a good man! I will bathe here today."

When he was looking for a suitable place to step into the stream, he heard the sweet chirping of birds. He looked up and around, and saw two birds flying together. He felt very pleased on seeing the happy bird couple. Just then one of the birds fell down hit by an arrow. It was the male bird. Seeing the wounded one, its mate was screaming in agony. Valmiki's heart melted at this pitiful sight. He looked around to find out who had shot the bird. He saw a hunter nearby with a bow and arrows. The hunter had shot the bird for food. Valmiki became very angry and automatically, following words came out from his mouth.

"mAnishAda pratishTatum samagah ssAshvatIssamAh

Yet krouncha mithunAdEkam sokam avadhIm kAma mOhitam"

"You who have killed one of the birds engaged in the act of love, thus, may you not yourself live long!"

This form of a couplet is called a 'Shlok' in Sanskrit literature.

Then Rishi Valmiki composed entire Ramayan of 24,001 Shlok on the order of Lord Brahma in the same meter that issued forth from him as a Shlok. The above Shlok is revered as the "first Shlok" in Sanskrit literature.

Cont'd on page 8

Cont'd from page 7

Valmiki Ramayan is recognized as Adi Kavya i.e. First Poem and Rishi Valmiki is revered as a Adi Kavi i.e. First Poet. Rishi Valmiki then was honored as a MahRishi means Great Sage. Ramayan is an Epic of Hindu religion and Sanskrit literature. Maharishi Valmiki also authored the book called [Yoga Vasistha](#), The Yoga Vasistha discusses a wide array of philosophical issues. This 'Yoga' was taught to Ram when he was disillusioned with the world at large. At his hermitage Rishi Valmiki taught both males and females.

The Ramayan explains the teachings of the Vedas in the form of stories, to spread learning and understanding amongst all. It teaches philosophy, politics, the concept of all kinds of duties, morality and truth, in an easy and simplified manner to those who cannot understand the complex language of the Vedas. It expounds ideal behavior and the ideal way of life. It emphasizes the importance of the spoken words, especially a promise made by anyone in a responsible position. It also highlights the strength of Hindu women and the sacrifice they are capable of.

It contains the teachings and interpretations of the ancient Hindu sages and presents them through allegory in narrative and the interspersed of philosophic and devotional discourse. The characters of [Ram](#), [Sita](#), [Lakshman](#), [Bharat](#), [Hanuman](#) and [Ravan](#) (the Villain of the story) are all fundamental to the grander cultural consciousness of India. There is a religion based on Valmiki's teachings as presented in the [Ramayan](#), called [Balmikism](#).

Legend of Goswami Tulsidas

Goswami Tulsidas ([1532-1623](#)) was a [poet](#) and [philosopher](#). He was born in Rajapur, [India](#) in the present day [Banda District, Uttar Pradesh](#), during the reign of Mughal Emperor [Humayun](#). Tulsidas wrote twelve books. Although a Sanskrit scholar, he is considered the greatest and most famous of Avadhi (Eastern Hindi) poets. His composition RamCharitManas is the most popular among all his creations.

It is devoted to Lord Ram. This [Avadhi](#) version of [Ramayan](#), like many translations of the original Sanskrit Valmiki Ramayan, is read and worshipped with great reverence in many Hindu homes. It is an inspiring book that contains sweet stanzas in beautiful rhyme called Chaupai. Chaupai(s) are broken by couplets called 'Doha(s)' with an occasional Sortha and Chhand.

Among all his books [Vinay Patrika](#) [Teachings of Good (moral) Conduct] is the most important book written by Tulsidas. For more reading on 'Legend of Tulsidas' refer to HSGC Temple Calendar 2005.

About Ramayan

This is the story of Ram, the seventh incarnation of [Vishnu](#), who was born on earth to kill the demon king Ravan of Lanka and to reestablish righteousness in the world.

The Ramayan does not begin with the life of Ram, but it starts with the people on earth who were terrified and suffered from many demons. Ravan was one such cruel demon king who terrorized the people especially Sages and Rishi(s) and prevented them from performing religious rituals. But Ravan was also a great devotee of the three Gods who rule the universe, namely, Brahma: the creator, Vishnu: the sustainer and Shiva: the creative destroyer and therefore he had their blessings and assurance that they as Gods will not hurt or kill him. But the terrified people of the earth prayed to these Gods for their help. The Gods decided that Lord Vishnu will incarnate as a human on earth and kill Ravan.

To fulfill the boon given by Gods to the king Dasharath of Ayodhya, Lord Vishnu incarnated as a prince Ram in his royal family. Thus it is believed that Shri Ram is the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu. It is believed in the Hindu religion that the Lord Vishnu incarnates on earth to reestablish righteousness.

Valmiki Ramayan was originally written by Maharshi Valmiki in Sanskrit and over the centuries it was translated into other Indian languages in different versions. This epic narrates Lord Ram of Ayodhya and his Aayan (journey of life). Like Mahabharat, Ramayan is not just a grand epic but a powerful symbol of India's social and cultural fabric passed on from one generation to another.

For centuries, its characters are considered as ideal role models. They are lifelike and distinct as in any occidental literature: Ram as an ideal man, ideal husband, ideal son and a responsible ruler; Sita as an ideal wife, ideal daughter and Laxman as an ideal brother. All the characters of Ramayan including Ravan are fundamental to the grandeur cultural consciousness of India. Long after the original Ramayan, about ten thousand years after, Goswami Tulsidas (born 16th century) wrote RamCharitManas, popularly known as Tulsi Ramayan. With the passage of time, Tulsi's version became better known among Hindus in upper India. Phrases from Tulsi Ramayan have passed into the common speech. Not only its Chaupai(s) are proverbial but its doctrine forms the most powerful religious influence in present-day Hinduism. Though he founded no school and was never known as a Guru or master, his Ramayan is accepted everywhere as an authoritative guide in righteousness and conduct of life.

Tulsi Ramayan is a novel presentation of the great theme of Valmiki, but is in no sense a translation of the Sanskrit epic. It consists of seven books or Kand(s) same as Valmiki Ramayan containing tales of King Dasarath's court, the birth and boyhood of Ram and his brethren, his marriage with Sita-daughter of King Janak, his voluntary exile for fourteen years as a result of Kaikeyi's guile and Dasharath's rash vow, the dwelling together of Ram, Sita and his younger brother Laxman, in the great central Indian forest, Sita's abduction by Ravan, the expedition to Lanka and the overthrow of the ravisher Ravan, with the help of Vanar (Monkey) King Sugriv and his Vanar army under the leadership of Hanuman, the great devotee of Shri Ram. And further, the life at Ayodhya after the return from the exile. And finally, Sita's expulsion to the forest, birth of Luv and Kush in Maharshi Valmiki's hermitage where she lived during her expulsion.

Ramayan is not only about Lord Ram and his attempt to rescue his consort Sita. Ramayan is about devotion, loyalty, keeping your words and promises, responsibility, righteousness, family values, respects to elders and more.

Minutes of EC Meeting on Jan. 6, 2008

Members Present:

Raj Bodalia, Rameshwar Dayal, Meena Mehta, Amar Sharma, Shiv Sharma, Jitubhai Patel, Hari Maddali, Jyoti Desai, Siva Sivaganesan

Objectives for 2008:

President talked about specific objectives and activities for the current year, and assigned specific tasks to members.

Garbha Graha

Ramesh Dayal, the chair person for this special project, informed that a model will be put on display in 2-3 months for devotees to see and provide inputs. The total expense is estimated to be \$160,000.

ADT Security

Jitubhai Patel will negotiate with the security company and make recommendation on whether to buy the security system from the company, which is currently being rented, or to extend the current contract.

Holi and Shivrati Pooja

Holi will be celebrated on March 21. Entry deadlines will be published in Aradhana. Jitubhai Patel will sponsor food for Shivratri.

Aarti Mantra

It was agreed that laminated copies of the aarti mantra, in Hindi and English, will be made available to devotees for use in the temple.

Minutes of EC Meeting on February 3, 2008

Members Present:

Raj Bodalia, Rameshwar Dayal, Meena Mehta, Amar Sharma, Manju Gupta, Shiv Sharma, Jitubhai Patel, Hari Maddali, Jyoti Desai, Bobba Choudary

Resignation of Priest Devanathji:

President informed the committee that Devanathji had submitted his resignation letter effective February 29, 2008. The committee asked the President to talk to Devanathji and find out the reason for leaving the temple.

Moraribapu Katha:

Moraribapu has accepted devotees' request to discourse Rama Katha in Cincinnati. The katha will be held in Cincinnati Garden from July 5 to July 13. The katha will be in Hindi. HSGC is a sole sponsor of the katha. All expenses will be funded by devotees and the Temple will not be liable for any expenses. The katha

chairperson is Jitubhai Patel. EC members will provide the needed help to the chairperson.

Book - Temples of North America:

The EC approved a purchase of 100 copies of the book 'Temples of North America'. The total cost is \$5,000.

Item (Aum photo) for Sale-Donation:

EC reaffirmed its position that the Temple will not allow devotees to sale any items at the temple. Interested parties can rent booths during Mela and sale their items.

Medical Benefits for Employees:

Health insurance cost has increased again this year. As in the past, the increase cost will be absorbed by the Temple.

Shivratri and Holi Pooja:

Both events will be celebrated on their respective dates. Bobba Choudary will make arrangements for both poojas. Jitubhai will sponsor food for the Shivratri. Holi cultural program will be on March 22 from 4 to 6 PM.

Jyoti Desai will arrange the cultural program.

Aradhana Display:

A current copy of Aradhana will be displayed on the bulletin board. Meena Mehta and Mohan Chopra are responsible for this.

Nomination for Election:

It was suggested that the nomination process for the EC elections should be completed two weeks before the elections. This will be published in Aradhana every month. Comments from general body will be forwarded to

the President and Vice President.

Secretary:

Siva Sivaganesan

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LAKSHAARCHANA CELEBRATION

APRIL 25TH AND APRIL 26TH 2008

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH 2008, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM.

5:00 PM: SWASTHI VAACHANAM, SANKALPAM, PUNYAHAM, RAKSHA BANDHANAM, KALASA STHAPANAM, MRITHSANGRAHANAM, ANKURARPANAM AND ARATI.

8:00 PM: MAHA PRASADA VINIYOGAM AND DINNER

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH 2008 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

9:00 AM: SUPRABHATAM

9:30 AM-12:30 PM: LAKSHAARCHANA

12:30 PM: MAHA NAIVEDYAM

1:00 PM: MAHA MANGALA ARATI, SHATHU MORAI

1:30 PM: MAHAPRASADA VINIYOGAM AND LUNCH.

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Announcement

**Sri Karunamayi will be coming to our temple
on June 22 and 23, 2008**

Sri Karunamayi is revered in India as an embodiment of divine, motherly love due to the love and affection that she showers liberally on people, animals, and even plants, the spiritual knowledge and guidance that she gives freely to all of humanity, and the humanitarian works that she has undertaken. "Amma," as she is affectionately called by her devotees, is simply the Telugu word for "mother," Telugu being Amma's native language.

For more information about her biography, please visit

<http://www.karunamayi.org/biography.html>

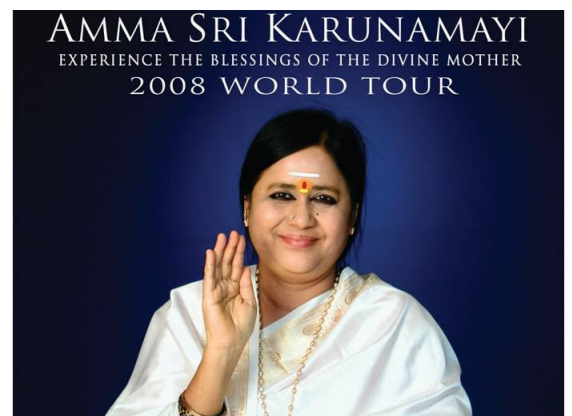
The schedule of her visit is as follows:

Saturday June 22 12:00 Spiritual Discourse

Sunday June 23 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Individual Blessings

For further information in Cincinnati, please contact

(513) 561-0707 or Cincinnati@Karunamayi.org





The Hindu Society Of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.
Devdham of North America™

Date: March 12, 2008

From: The President
Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati
4420 Klatte Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45244

Dear Devotees:

The Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati has been organizing and celebrating traditional Hindu religious and cultural festivals for many years in the Cincinnati community. Now, our divine dream of having a special grand scale, nine days long festival, '**Gyan Yagna**', has come true. With the grace of God and the blessing of Pujya Shri Moraribapu, the Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati is pleased to announce that '**RamKatha USA**' by Pujya Shri Moraribapu is coming to Cincinnati in July 2008.

The Hindu Society of Greater Cincinnati and Sundarkand Parivar personally invite you and the members of your organization to join us and participate in this great once in a life time opportunity and achieve divine knowledge through RamKatha:Gyan Yagna which Bapu calls a "**Prem Yagna**".

RamKatha Program

Dates/ Days: July 5 Saturday through July 13 Sunday 2008

Time: July 5- 4:00pm to 6:00pm
July 6 through 13- 9:30am to @1:00pm

Bhojan: Lunch-Prasad after 1:00pm everyday

Language: Hindi

Venue: Cincinnati Gardens Arena
2250 Seymour Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45212

We request you Mr. President, to extend this invitation to your members by attaching this invitation and information to your News Letter. The Hindu Society and Sundarkand Parivar would greatly appreciate your support and participation. We encourage you to invite your out of town relatives and friends for this merit earning, auspicious occasion.

Plans for this special 'Town Event (RamKatha)' are in progress. We are not asking for any monetary donations but greatly appreciate your volunteer services. Please do not wait for us to call you but come forward and contact any EC member of the Temple (refer Aradhana), Jayant Patel: 513-984-6275, Email: Jpatel@zoomtown.com, Dr. Umakant Patel: 513-985-0084, Natubhai Noticewala 513-563-2007. We look forward to hearing from you.

For Hospitality/Hotel information please visit <http://www.iiramii.net/en/rk08-cincinnati.htm>

For further and detail information please visit www.iiramii.net

Sincerely

Chairman: Jitubhai Patel

P.R. Meena Mehta

|| Jay Siya Ram ||



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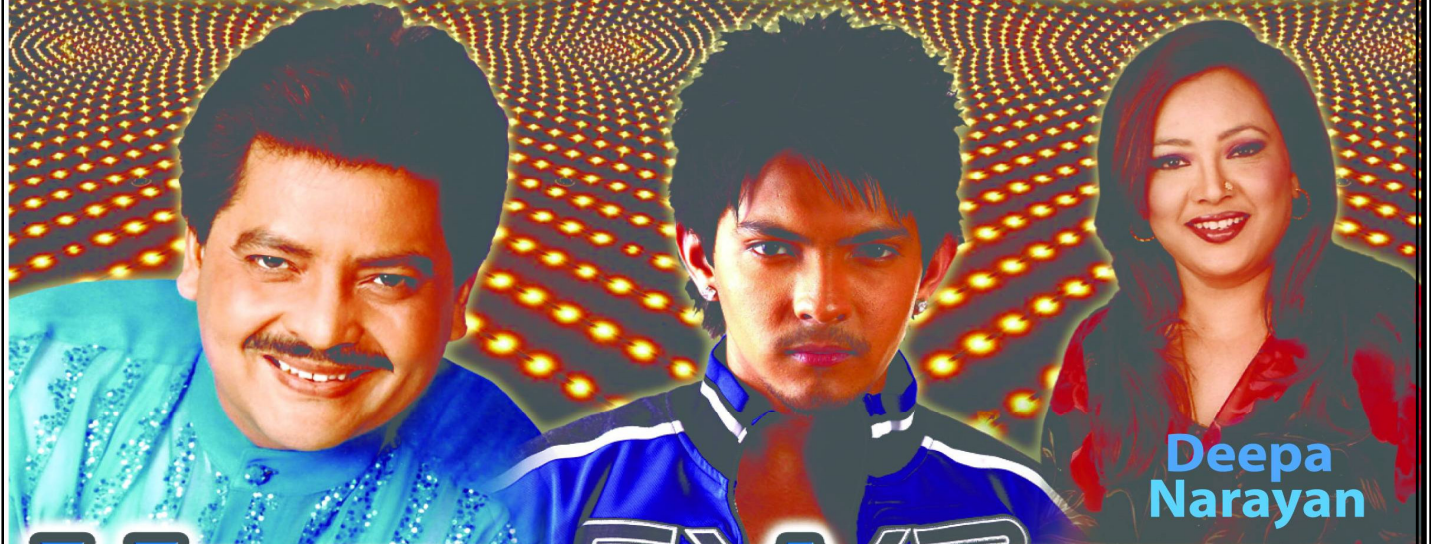


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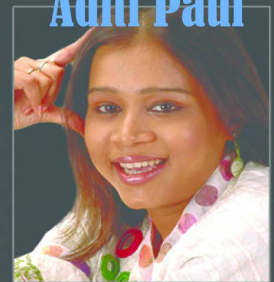
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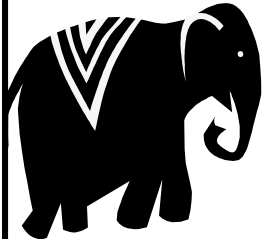
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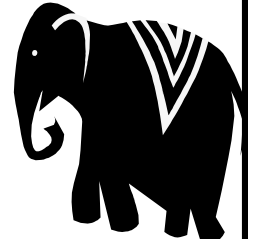
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