

॥ श्रीरामोदन्तं ॥

Story of Sri Rama

(Sanskrit text and English Translation)

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Foreword

The term 'Sriramodantam' is composed of the words '*Srirama*' and '*udantam*' meaning 'the story of *Srirama*'. Sriramodantam is a '*laghukavyam*' (minor poetical composition) that has been in use as the first text in old Sanskrit curriculum of Kerala for last five centuries. As per this curriculum the students were taught this text along with *Amarakosa* and *Siddharoopam* immediately after they had learnt the Sanskrit alphabets (*Varnamala*). This *Kavya*, which is a highly abridged version of "Valmiki Ramayana", was used as a tool to teach effectively *Vibhakti*, *Sandhi*, *Samasa*¹, etc to young pupils.

There will hardly be a Sanskrit knowing person from Kerala who does not know by-heart at least a few verses of this work, which begins with the verse "श्रीपर्ति प्रणिपत्याहं श्रीवत्साङ्कितवक्षसं श्रीरामोदन्तमाख्यास्ये श्रीवाल्मीकिप्रकीर्तितम्". Though the traditional style of teaching Sanskrit exists no more in Kerala, the '*balakanda*' of Sriramodantam found a place in the Sanskrit text books prepared by the State board till

¹ Case endings, conjunction of words and compound of words

a few decades back. This shows how significant a role this work had played in imparting basic lessons of Sanskrit to the young minds.

It is a great pity that the author of Sriramodantam is unknown. The author, in his inimitable and simple style, has narrated, in just 200 verses, the seven *kandas* of Ramayana that was expounded by Valmiki in 24000 verses.

Any suggestion for improving this translation is welcome.

- Translator

॥ श्रीरामोदन्तं ॥

(Story of Sri Rama)

अथ बालकाण्डः ॥

The Chapter on Childhood

श्रीपतिं प्रणिपत्याहं श्रीवत्साङ्कितवक्षसम् ।
श्रीरामोदन्तमारब्यास्ये श्रीवाल्मीकिप्रकीर्तितम् ॥ १ ॥

Bowing to *Lakshmi*'s consort, *Vishnu*, who has a mark, *Srivatsa*, on his chest, I shall relate the story of Sri Rama, as narrated by *Valmiki*.

पुरा विश्रवसः पुत्रो, रावणो नाम राक्षसः ।
आसीदस्यानुजौ चास्तां कुंभकर्णविभीषणौ ॥ २ ॥

Long ago there was a *Rakshasa*² named Ravana who was the son of sage Visravas. Ravana's younger brothers were *Kumbhakarna* and *Vibheeshana*.

ते तु तीव्रेण तपसा प्रत्यक्षीकृत्य वेधसम् ।

² A particular sect of asuras, demonical beings.

वरिरे च वरानिष्ठानस्मादाश्रितवत्सलात् ॥ ३ ॥

By their severe penance, they made *Brahma* appear before them and asked for desired boons from *Brahma* who is affectionate towards his devotees.

रावणो मानुषादन्यैः अवध्यत्वं तथानुजाः ।
निर्देवत्वेच्छ्या निद्रां कुंभकर्णोऽवृणीत च ॥ ४ ॥

Ravana chose not to be killed by anyone except humans. *Kumbhakarna* wanted to surpass all *devas*, instead asked for constant sleep, by slip of tongue³.

विभीषणो विष्णुभक्तिं वब्रे सत्वगुणान्वितः ।
तेभ्य एतान् वरान् दत्वा तत्रैवान्तर्दधे प्रभुः ॥ ५ ॥

Vibheeshana, who was endowed with noble qualities, asked for devotion to *Vishnu*. Giving them these boons, *Brahma* disappeared.

रावणस्तु ततो गत्वा रणे जित्वा धनाधिपं ।
लङ्घापुरीं पुष्पकं च हृत्वा तत्रावसत् सुखम् ॥ ६ ॥

³ *Kumbhakarna* actually desired for निर्देवत्वम् (surpassing gods), but ended up asking for निद्रावत्वम् (long sleep) instead.

Ravana then won a battle against the Lord of riches, *Kubera*, took from him the city of *Lanka* and the *Pushpaka*⁴ and lived there happily.

यातुधानास्ततः सर्वे रसातलनिवासिनः ।
दशाननं समाश्रित्य लङ्घां च सुखमावसन् ॥७॥

Then, all the *Rakshasas* who were living in *Rasatala*⁵ took refuge in ten-headed Ravana and lived happily in *Lanka*.

मन्दोदरीं मयसुतां परिणीय दशाननः ।
तस्यामुत्पादयामास मेघनादाह्यं सुतम् ॥८॥

Ravana married *Mandodari*, daughter of *Maya*, and begot a son in her called, *Meghanada*.

रसां रसातलं चैव विजित्य स तु रावणः ।
लोकामाक्रामयन् सर्वान् जहार च विलासिनीः ॥९॥

Ravana conquered the earth and *Rasatala*, tormented all the worlds and carried away the beautiful women.

⁴ A divine aerial chariot

⁵ One of the seven lower worlds

दूषयन् वैदिकं कर्म द्विजान् अर्दयति स्म सः ।
आत्मजेनान्वितो युद्धे वासवं चाप्यपीडयत् ॥ १० ॥

Dishonoring the Vedic rituals, Ravana oppressed the twice-born⁶. Accompanied by his son, he defeated *Devendra*⁷ in battle.

तदीयतरुरत्नानि पुनरानाय्य किङ्करैः ।
स्थापयित्वा तु लङ्घायामवसच्च चिराय सः ॥ ११ ॥

Fetching the wish-yielding trees (from Heaven) through his servants, Ravana planted them in *Lanka* and lived there for a long time.

ततस्तस्मिन्नवसरे विधातारं दिवौकसः ।
उपगम्योचिरे सर्वं रावणस्य विचेष्टितम् ॥ १२ ॥

*Devas*⁸, then, approached *Brahma* and related to him all the misdeeds of Ravana.

तदाकर्ण्य सुरैस्साकं प्राप्य दुर्घोदधेस्तटम् ।

⁶ The Brahmins

⁷ The chief of the gods

⁸ Gods or deities

तुष्टाव च हृषीकेशं विधाता विविधैः स्तवैः ॥ १३ ॥

Having heard their woes, *Brahma* went with *devas* to the shores of the ocean of milk⁹, propitiated *Vishnu* by various hymns.

आविर्भूयाथ दैत्यारिः पप्रच्छ च पितामहम्।
किमर्थमागतोऽसि त्वं साकं देवगणैरिति ॥ १४ ॥

Then *Vishnu*, the enemy of *Asuras*, appeared before them and asked *Brahma* why he had come there with *devas*.

ततो दशाननात् पीडामजस्तस्मै न्यवेदयत्।
तच्छ्रुत्वोवाच धातारं हर्षयन् विष्टरश्रवाः ॥ १५ ॥
अलं भयेनात्मयोने गच्छ देवगणैस्सह।
अहं दाशरथिर्भूत्वा हनिष्यामि दशाननम् ॥ १६ ॥
आत्मांशैश्च सुरास्सर्वे भूमौ वानररूपिणः।
जायेरन्मम साहाय्यं कर्तुं रावणनिघ्रहे ॥ १७ ॥

Then *Brahma* told *Vishnu* about the troubles caused by *Ravana*. Hearing that, *Vishnu* cheered up *Brahma* and said:

“Enough of the fears, Oh *Brahma*, go back along with *devas*. I will take birth as son of King *Dasaratha* and will kill the ten-headed Ravana.”

“Let all *devas*, through part of their souls¹⁰, take birth as monkeys¹¹ on the earth to help me in slaying Ravana.”

एवमुक्त्वा विधातारं तत्रैवान्तर्दधे प्रभुः ।
पद्मयोनिस्तु गीर्वाणैस्समं प्रायात् प्रहृष्टधीः ॥ १८ ॥

Having spoken thus to *Brahma*, *Vishnu* disappeared. *Brahma* gladly went back along with *devas*.

अजीजनत्ततो शक्रो वालिनं नाम वानरम् ।
सुग्रीवमपि मार्ताण्डो हनुमन्तं च मारुतः ॥ १९ ॥

Devendra created a monkey named *Vali*, *Sun* created *Sugreeva* and *Vayu* created *Hanuman*.

¹⁰ Puranas describe many such instances where a deva takes birth, with a specific mission on Earth, out of only a part of his soul; he continues to exist in Heaven too.

¹¹ Vanaras were not ordinary monkeys, but ape-like humanoids. Especially those Vanaras, who assisted Rama in his battle with Ravana, were partial incarnations of gods.

पुरैव जनयामास जाम्बवन्तं च पद्मजः ।
एवमन्ये च विबुधाः कपीनजनयन् बहून् ॥ २० ॥

Brahma had created *Jambavan* long ago. Similarly all other *devas* created numerous monkeys.

ततो वानरसंघानां बालिः परिवृढोऽभवत् ।
अमीभिरखिलैस्साकं किष्किन्धामध्युवास च ॥ २१ ॥

Vali became the leader of those monkeys and with all of them inhabited *Kishkindha*¹².

आसीद्वारथो नाम सूर्यवंशोऽथ पार्थिवः ।
भार्यास्तिस्थोपि लब्ध्वासौ तासु लेभे न सन्ततिम् ॥ २२ ॥

There was a king called *Dasaratha* who belonged to the clan of the sun. Though he had three wives, he had no sons.

ततः सुमन्त्रवचनाद् ऋष्यशृंगं स भूपतिः ।
आनीय पुत्रकामेर्दिं आरेभे सपुरोहितः ॥ २३ ॥

¹² An ancient kingdom of the monkeys in South India

Then, on the advice of *Sumantra*¹³, he brought sage *Rishyasringa* and got *Putrakameshti*¹⁴ conducted with *Rishyasringa* as the priest.

अथाग्रेरुत्थितः कश्चिद् गृहीत्वा पायसं चरुम् ।
एतत्प्राशय पत्नीस्त्वं इत्युक्त्वाऽदान्नप्राय सः ॥२४॥

From the fire arose a divine being, holding in his hand a cup of milk porridge and gave it to the king saying “Feed this to your wives.”

तद्गृहीत्वा तदैवासौ पत्नीः प्राशयदुत्सुकः ।
ताश्च तत्प्राशनादेव नृपाद्वर्भमधारयन् ॥२५॥

He took it and fed his wives the porridge immediately. As a result, the queens became pregnant through the king.

पूर्णे कालेऽथ कौसल्या सज्जनांभोजभास्करम् ।
अजीजनद्रामचन्द्रं कैकेयी भरतं तथा ॥२६॥

In due course, *Kausalya* gave birth to *Ramachandra*, who was a source of joy to virtuous men like Sun to lotus. *Kaikeyi* gave birth to *Bharata*.

¹³ Chief minister of king Dasaratha

¹⁴ A Yajna (Vedic ritual) conducted with a desire to get a son.

ततो लक्षणशत्रुघ्नौ सुमित्राजीजनत् सुतौ ।
अकारयत्पिता तेषां जातकर्मादिकं द्विजैः ॥ २७ ॥

Then, *Sumitra* gave birth to twins, Lakshmana and Satrughna. The king got their birth-ceremonies and other rituals performed by the priests.

ततो ववृधिरेऽन्योन्यं स्त्रिघाश्वत्वार एव ते ।
सकलासु च विद्यासु नैपुण्यमभिलेभिरे ॥ २८ ॥

The four princes grew up and were affectionate with one another. They gained mastery in all branches of learning.

ततः कदाचिदागत्य विश्वामित्रो महामुनिः ।
ययाचे यज्ञरक्षार्थं रामं शक्तिधरोपमम् ॥ २९ ॥

Then, one day the great sage *Viswamitra* visited the king and desiring protection (from the *Rakshasas*) of his *Yajnas* he sought the help of Rama who was equal to *Kartikeya*¹⁵ in valour.

¹⁵ Son of Siva; He was commander-in-chief of devas

वसिष्ठवचनाद्रामं लक्ष्मणेन समन्वितम् ।
कृच्छ्रेण नृपतिस्तस्य कौशिकस्य करे ददौ ॥ ३० ॥

As advised by *Vasishtha* the king, with great sorrow, entrusted Rama and Lakshmana to *Kausika*¹⁶.

तौ गृहीत्वा ततो गच्छन् बलामतिबलां तथा ।
अस्त्राणि च समग्राणि ताभ्यामुपदिदेश सः ॥ ३१ ॥

Taking them with him, he taught them the chants of *Bala* and *Atibala*¹⁷ as well as all the divine *astras*¹⁸.

गच्छन् सहानुजो रामः कौशिकेन प्रचोदितः ।
ताटकामवधीद्वीमान् लोकपीडनतत्परां ॥ ३२ ॥

While proceeding along with his brother, Rama, at the behest of *Kausika*, killed *Tadaka* who was harassing people.

¹⁶ Another name for Viswamitra

¹⁷ Two chants that prevent hunger and sleep.

¹⁸ According Hindu Puranas, an *astra* is a supernatural weapon, presided over by a specific deity. Use of an *astra* requires knowledge of its specific mantra.

ततः सिद्धाश्रमं प्राप्य कौशिकस्सह राघवः ।
अध्वरं च समारेभे राक्षसाश्च समागमन् ॥ ३३ ॥

Then, *Kausika* along with Rama reached *Siddhasrama*. As the *Yajna* started the *Rakshasas* appeared.

राघवस्तु ततोऽस्त्रेण क्षिप्त्वा मारीचमर्णवे ।
सुबाहुप्रमुखान् हत्वा यज्ञं चापालयन्मुनेः ॥ ३४ ॥

With an *astra* Rama hurled *Maricha*¹⁹ into the ocean, killed the *Rakshasas* led by *Subahu* and protected the *Yajna* of the sage.

कौशिकेन ततो रामो नीयमानः सहानुजः ।
अहल्याशापनिर्माक्षं कृत्वा संप्राप्य मैथिलम् ॥ ३५ ॥

Then, led by *Kausika*, Rama along with his brother, after redeeming *Ahalya*²⁰ of her curse, went to the king of *Mithila*.

जनकेनार्चितो रामः कौशिकेन प्रचोदितः ।

¹⁹ A Rakshasa who was Ravana's maternal uncle.

²⁰ Wife of the sage Gautama; she turned into a stone due to a curse.

सीतानिमित्तमानीतं बमङ्ग धनुरैश्वरम् ॥ ३६ ॥

There, Rama was received with respect by *Janaka*²¹. At the behest of *Kausika* Rama broke the *bow of Siva* kept in connection with the marriage of Sita²².

ततो दशरथं दूतैरानाय्य मिथिलाधिपः ।
रामादिभ्यस्तत्सुतेभ्यः सीताद्याः कन्यका ददौ ॥ ३७ ॥

Then, the King of *Mithila* invited *Dasaratha* through his messengers and gave away Sita and her cousins (in marriage) to Rama and his brothers.

ततो गुरुनियोगेन कृतोद्घाहः सहानुजः ।
राघवो निर्ययौ तेन जनकेनोरु मानितः ॥ ३८ ॥

Having married, at the bidding of his elders, Rama and his brothers returned (to *Ayodhya*) after being greatly honoured by *Janaka*.

तदाकर्ण्य धनुर्भर्गं आयान्तं रोषभीषणम् ।
विजित्य भार्गवं रामं अयोध्यां प्राप राघवः ॥ ३९ ॥

²¹ The king of *Mithila* and father of *Sita*

²² King *Janaka* had made a proclamation that only one, who handled the bow of *Siva*, could marry *Sita*.

श्रीरामोदन्तम् Story of Sri Rama

After defeating the furious *Bhargavarama*²³ who came to Rama upon hearing about the breaking of the bow of Siva, Rama returned to *Ayodhya*.

ततः सर्वजनानन्दं कुर्वाणश्चेष्टितैः स्वकैः ।
तामध्युवास काकुत्स्थस्सीतया सहितस्सुखम् ॥४०॥

Then Rama, the prince of the *Kakutstha* clan, who brought happiness to everyone by his actions, lived in *Ayodhya* happily with Sita.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्ते बालकाण्डः समाप्तः ॥

Thus ends the chapter on childhood of Rama

²³ An incarnation of Vishnu; son of sage Jamadagni in the clan of sage Bhrigu; he is also known as Parasu Rama.

अथ अयोध्याकाण्डः ॥

The Chapter on *Ayodhya*

एतास्मिन्नन्तरे गेहं मातुलस्य युधाजितः ।
प्रययौ भरतः प्रीतः शत्रुघ्नेन समन्वितः ॥१॥

Meanwhile Bharata along with Satrughna went to the house of his uncle *Yudhajit*.

ततः प्रकृतिभिः साकं मन्त्रयित्वा स भूपतिः ।
अभिषेकाय रामस्य समारेभे मुदाऽन्वितः ॥२॥

Then the king, after consulting with his ministers, started with joy preparations for coronation of Rama.

कैकेयी तु महीपालं मन्थरादूषिताशया ।
वरद्वयं पुरा दत्तं ययाचे सत्यसंगरम् ॥३॥

Her mind being corrupted by *Manthara*, *Kaikeyi* requested the honest king for two boons formerly promised to her by him.

वनवासाय रामस्य राज्याप्यै भरतस्य च ।
तस्या वरद्वयं कृच्छ्रमनुज्ञे महीपतिः ॥४॥

The king gave her the two vicious boons of Rama's remaining in the forest and Bharata's getting the kingdom.

रामं तदैव कैकेयी वनवासाय चादिशत् ।
अनुज्ञाप्य गुरुन् सर्वान् निर्ययौ च वनाय सः ॥५॥

Kaikeyi immediately ordered Rama to go to the forest. Rama took leave of all the elders and proceeded to the forest.

दृष्टा तं निर्गतं सीता लक्ष्मणश्चानुजग्मतुः ।
संत्यज्य स्वगृहान् सर्वे पौराश्चानुयुद्धुतम् ॥६॥

Seeing him leaving, Sita and Lakshmana followed him. Leaving their houses at once, all the citizens (of Ayodhya) also followed Rama.

वश्चयित्वा कृशान् पौरान् निद्राणान् निशि राघवः ।
वाह्यमानं सुमन्त्रेण रथमारुह्य चागमत् ॥७॥

श्रीरामोदन्तम् Story of Sri Rama

Deceiving the dejected citizens sleeping at night,
*Raghava*²⁴ departed in a chariot driven by *Sumantra*.

श्रीगिरेरपुरं गत्वा गंगाकूलेऽथ राघवः ।
गुहेन सत्कृतस्तत्र निशामेकामुवास च ॥८॥

Reaching *Sringiberapuram* on the banks of Ganges,
Rama stayed there for overnight accepting the
hospitality of *Guha*²⁵.

सारथि सन्निमन्त्र्यासौ सीतालक्ष्मणसंयुतः ।
गुहेनानीतया नावा संततार च जाहवीम् ॥९॥

Taking leave of the charioteer²⁶ Rama, along with
Sita and Lakshmana, crossed the river Ganges in a
boat rowed by *Guha*.

भरद्वाजमुर्नि प्राप्य तं नत्वा तेन सत्कृतः ।
राघवस्तस्य निर्देशात् चित्रकूटेऽवस्त् सुखम् ॥१०॥

On reaching (the hermitage of) sage Bharadwaja,
Rama paid obeisance to the sage and was

²⁴ Rama

²⁵ The chieftain of Nishadas, a tribe of hunters and fishermen

²⁶ Sumantra, the chief minister of king Dasaratha

welcomed by the sage. As advised by him, Rama lived happily in *Chitrakoota*²⁷.

अयोध्यां तु ततो गत्वा सुमन्त्रः शोकविह्लः ।
राजे न्यवेदयत्सर्वं राघवस्य विचेष्टितम् ॥ ११ ॥

Then *Sumantra*, grief-stricken, went back to *Ayodhya* and told the king all details about *Raghava*.

तदाकर्ण्य सुमन्त्रोक्तं राजा दुःखविमूढधीः ।
रामरामेति विलपन् देहं त्वत्त्वा दिवं ययौ ॥ १२ ॥

Hearing *Sumantra*'s words, the king's mind was drowned in great sorrow. Crying "Rama, Rama", the king left his body and went to heaven.

मन्त्रिणस्तु वसिष्ठोक्त्या देहं संरक्ष्य भूपतेः ।
दूतैरानाययामासुः भरतं मातुलालयात् ॥ १३ ॥

At the instance of *Vasishtha*, the ministers preserved the body of the king and sent messengers and brought Bharata from his uncle's house.

²⁷ A mountain on the banks of the river Mandakini

भरतस्तु मृतं श्रुत्वा पितरं कैकेयीगिरा ।
संस्कारादि चकारास्य यथाविधि सहानुजः ॥ १४ ॥

Hearing of the death of his father from *Kaikeyi*, Bharata, along with his younger brother, duly performed the king's cremation and funeral ceremonies.

अमात्यैश्वोद्यमानोपि राज्याय भरतस्तथा ।
वनायैव ययौ राममानेतुं नागरैस्सह ॥ १५ ॥

In spite of persuasion by the ministers, Bharata, along with the citizens, went to the forest to bring Rama back.

स गत्वा चित्रकूटस्थं रामं चीरजटाधरं ।
ययाचे रक्षितुं राज्यं वसिष्ठाद्यैः द्विजैस्सह ॥ १६ ॥

After reaching Rama who was staying in *Chitrakoota* wearing bark and matted hair, Bharata requested him to rule the kingdom assisted by *Vasishtha* and other Brahmins.

चतुर्दश समा नीत्वा पुनरैष्वाम्यहं पुरीम् ।
इत्युत्त्वा पादुके दत्वा तं रामं प्रत्ययापयत् ॥ १७ ॥

Rama assured Bharata that he would return to the city after staying in the forest for fourteen years, gave his sandals and sent him back.

गृहीत्वा पादुके तस्मात् भरतो दीनमानसः ।
नन्दिग्रामे स्थितस्ताभ्यां रक्ष च वसुन्धराम् ॥ १८ ॥

Taking the sandals from Rama with a dejected heart, Bharata ruled the country living in *Nandigrama*.

राघवस्तु गिरेस्तस्मात् गत्वार्त्ति समवन्दत् ।
तत्पदिस्तु तदा सीतां भूषणैः स्वैरभूषयत् ॥ १९ ॥

Rama then went from the mountain (*Chitrakoota*) to the sage Atri and paid respects to him. The sage's wife then adorned Sita with her own ornaments.

उषित्वा तु निशामेकां आश्रमे तस्य राघवः ।
विवेश दण्डकारण्यं सीतालक्ष्मणसंयुतः ॥ २० ॥

श्रीरामोदन्तम् Story of Sri Rama

After spending a night in the hermitage (of the sage *Atri*), Rama, with Sita and Lakshmana, entered the *Dandaka*²⁸ forest.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्ते अयोध्याकाण्डः समाप्तः ॥

Thus ends the Chapter on *Ayodhya* of Sri Ramodantam.

²⁸ A forest in the Indo-Gangetic Valley

अथ आरण्यकाण्डः ॥

The Chapter of the Forest

व्रजन् वनेन काकुत्स्थो विराधं विधिचोदितम् ।
सदारानुजमात्मानं हरन्तमवधीत् तदा ॥ १ ॥

While travelling in the forest, Rama killed ill-fated *Viradha*²⁹ who (after attacking them) was carrying Rama along with Lakshmana and Sita.

शरभंगाश्रमं प्राप्य स्वर्गंति तस्य वीक्ष्य सः ।
प्रतिजडे राक्षसानां वधं मुनिभिरर्थितः ॥ २ ॥

He then went the hermitage of *Sarabhanga*, witnessed his departure to the heaven and vowed to kill the *Rakshasas* at the request of sages.

तस्मात् गत्वा सुतीक्ष्णं च प्रणम्यानेन पूजितः ।
अगस्त्याश्रमं प्राप्य तं नमाम रघूत्तमः ॥ ३ ॥

From there Rama went to the sage *Suteekshna*, saluted him and was honoured by him. Thereafter

²⁹ A fierce Rakshasa who was an incarnation of a Gandharva

he reached the hermitage of the sage *Agastya* and saluted him.

रामाय वैष्णवं चापं ऐन्द्रं तूणीयुगं तथा ।
ब्राह्मं चास्त्रं च खड्जं च प्रददौ कुंभसंभवः ॥४॥

The sage, who was born from a pot, gave Rama the bow of Lord *Vishnu*, pair of quivers of *Indra* and the arrow and sword of *Brahma*.

ततः स गच्छन् काकुत्स्थः समागम्य जटायुषम् ।
वैदेह्याः पालनायैनं श्रद्धये पितृवल्लभम् ॥५॥

Then Rama went and met *Jatayu*, a friend of his father, and entrusted him with the protection of Sita.

ततः पञ्चवटीं प्राप्य तत्र लक्ष्मणनिर्मिताम् ।
पर्णशालामध्यवास सीतया सहितः सुखम् ॥६॥

Then he reached *Panchavati*³⁰ and lived happily with Sita, in a leaf-hut built by Lakshmana.

³⁰ A sacred place on the southern bank of the river Godavari

तत्राभ्येत्यैकदा रामं ववे शूर्पणखाऽभिका ।
तन्निरस्ता लक्ष्मणं च ववे सोऽपि निराकरोत् ॥७॥

There Rama was once approached by the lustful *Soorpanakha*³¹. On being rejected by him, she chose Lakshmana who too rejected her.

राममेव ततो ववे कामार्ता कामसन्निभम् ।
पुनश्च धिकृता तेन सीतामभ्यद्रवदुषा ॥८॥

Thereupon, the lustful *rakshasi* again chose Rama who was handsome like *Manmatha*³² and upon being rejected again the *rakshasi* attacked Sita in anger.

लक्ष्मणेन ततो रोषात् क्रत्तश्वरणनासिका ।
सा तु गत्वा जनस्थानं खरायैतन्ध्यवेद्यत् ॥९॥

Then her (*Soorpanakha*) nose and ears were cut off by Lakshmana in anger. She went to *Janasthana*³³ and narrated the incidents to *Khara*³⁴.

³¹ Step-sister of Ravana

³² God of love

³³ A part of the forest Dandaka which lies in the basin of Godavari

³⁴ Step-brother of Ravana and brother of Soorpanakha

तदाकर्ण्य खरः कुद्धो राघवं हन्तुमाययौ ।
दूषणत्रिशिरोमुख्यैर्यातुधानैः समन्वितः ॥ १० ॥

Upon hearing this, wrathful *Khara*, along with an army of *Rakshasas* led by *Dhooshana* and *Trisira*³⁵, came to kill Raghava.

तत्क्षणं लक्ष्मणे सीतां निधाय रघुनन्दनः ।
खरं सहानुगं संख्ये जघान लघुविक्रमः ॥ ११ ॥

Immediately entrusting Sita to the care of Lakshmana, Rama, embodiment of easy valour, killed *Khara* along with his followers.

ततः शूर्पणखा गत्वा लङ्घां शोकसमन्विता ।
न्यवेदयद्रावणाय वृत्तान्तं सर्वमादितः ॥ १२ ॥

Then *Soorpanakha*, full of sorrow, went to *Lanka* and recounted all the happenings to *Ravana*.

तच्छ्रुत्वा रावणः सीतां हर्तुं कृतमतिस्तदा ।
मारीचस्याश्रमं प्राप्य साहाच्ये तमचोदयत् ॥ १३ ॥

³⁵ Brothers of *Khara*

Hearing this Ravana made up his mind to abduct Sita. Reaching the hermitage of *Maricha*³⁶ Ravana demanded his help.

सोऽपि स्वर्णमृगो भूत्वा सीताया प्रमुखेऽचरत् ।
सा तु तं मृगमाहर्तुं भर्तारं समयाचत ॥ १४ ॥

Taking the form of a golden deer, he roamed in front of Sita and she urged her husband to get her that deer.

नियुज्य लक्ष्मणं सीतां रक्षितुं रघुनन्दनः ।
अन्वगच्छत् मृगं तूर्णं द्रवन्तं काननान्तरे ॥ १५ ॥

Entrusting Sita to Lakshmana's care, Rama chased the deer which was running fast deep into the forest.

विव्याध च मृगं रामः स निजरूपमास्थितः ।
हा सीते लक्ष्मणोत्येवं रुदन् प्राणान् समत्यजत् ॥ १६ ॥

Rama killed the deer and *Maricha* assumed his true form and gave up his life screaming, "Oh Sita, Oh Lakshmana"³⁷.

³⁶ The uncle of Ravana

³⁷ Maricha imitated Rama in his cry to mislead Sita

एतदाकर्यं वैदेह्या लक्ष्मणश्चोदितो भृशम् ।
तदक्षां देवताः प्रार्थ्य प्रययौ राघवान्तिकं ॥ १७ ॥

Upon being repeatedly pressed by Sita on hearing this cry, Lakshmana prayed to the *Devas* for her safety and went in search of Rama.

तदन्तरं समासाद्य रावणो यतिरूपधृत् ।
सीतां गृहीत्वा प्रययौ गगनेन मुदान्वितः ॥ १८ ॥

Taking this opportunity, Ravana, assuming the form of an ascetic, went to Sita, caught hold of her and happily took her by air³⁸.

ततो जटायुरालोक्य नीयमानां तु जानकीम् ।
प्राहरद्रावणं प्राप्य तुण्डपक्षनखैर्भृशम् ॥ १९ ॥

Then, seeing *Janaki*³⁹ being taken away, *Jatayu* fought Ravana ferociously with his beak, wings and nails.

छित्वैनं चन्द्रहासेन पातयित्वा च भूतले ।

³⁸ In the aerial vehicle named Pushpaka

³⁹ Sita, the daughter of King Janaka

गृहीत्वा रावणः सीतां प्राविशन्निजमन्दिरम् ॥ २० ॥

Ravana maimed him (*Jatayu*) with his sword *Chandrahasa*, felled him on the earth and took Sita to his palace.

अशोकवनिकामध्ये संस्थाप्य जनकात्मजाम्।
रावणो रक्षितुं चैनां नियुयोज निशाचरीः ॥ २१ ॥

Having seated Sita in *Asoka* grove, Ravana bid Rakshasis⁴⁰ to take care of her.

हत्वा रामस्तु मारीचं आगच्छन्ननुजेरिताम्।
वार्तामकर्ण्य दुःखार्तः पर्णशालामुपागमत् ॥ २२ ॥

After slaying *Maricha* and hearing the happenings from Lakshmana whom he met on his way back, Rama returned to the hut grief stricken.

अदृष्टा तत्र वैदेहीं विचिन्वानो वनान्तरे।
सहानुजो गृग्राजं छिन्नपक्षं ददर्श सः ॥ २३ ॥

⁴⁰ Female demons

Not seeing Sita in the hut, Rama and Lakshmana, while searching for Sita in the forest, saw *Jatayu*, the king of eagles, with his wings cut off.

तेनोक्तां जानकीवार्ता श्रुत्वा पश्चान्मृतं च तम् ।
दग्ध्वा सहानुजो रामः चक्रे तस्योदकक्रियां ॥२४॥

Rama heard from him the news of Sita. Later, when *Jatayu* died, Rama and Lakshmana cremated his body and performed the obsequies.

आत्मनोऽभिभवं पश्चात् कुर्वतीं पथि लक्ष्मणः ।
अयोमुखीं चकाराशु कर्तश्रवणनासिकाम् ॥२५॥

Later, Lakshmana swiftly cut off the ear and nose of *Ayomukhi*⁴¹ who insulted him on the way.

गृहीतौ तौ कबन्धेन भुजौ तस्य न्यकृन्तताम् ।
ततस्तु याचितौ तेन तद्देहं देहतुश्च तौ ॥२६॥

Rama and Lakshmana cut off the hands of the demon *Kabandha* who had grabbed them and then, cremated his body at his request.

⁴¹ A *Rakshasi* who had iron face

स तु दिव्याकृतिर्भूत्वा रामं सीतोपलब्ध्ये ।
सुग्रीवमृष्यमूकस्थं याहीत्युत्त्वा दिवं ययौ ॥ २७ ॥

Assuming divine form he (*Kabandha*) departed for Heaven after telling Rama, in order to trace Sita, to go to *Sugreeva*, who was in *Rishyamooka* Mountain.

ततः प्रीतो रघुश्रेष्ठः शबर्याश्रममभ्ययात् ।
तयाऽभिपूजितो पश्चात् पम्पां प्राप सलक्ष्मणः ॥ २८ ॥

Then, Rama, comforted (by *Kabandha*'s words), went to the hermitage of *Sabari*. After being worshipped by her, Rama with Lakshmana reached *Pampa*.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्ते आरण्यकाण्डः समाप्तः ॥

Thus ends the Chapter on “Forest” of Sri Ramodantam.

अथ किष्किन्थाकाण्डः ॥

Chapter on Kishkindha

हनूमानथ सुग्रीवनिर्दिष्टो रामलक्ष्मणौ ।
प्राप्य श्रुत्वा च वृत्तान्तं तेन तौ समयोजयत् ॥ १ ॥

Then, as ordered by *Sugreeva*, Hanuman came to Rama and Lakshmana and hearing their story he brought them to *Sugreeva*.

ततो रामस्य वृत्तान्तं सुग्रीवाय निवेद्य सः ।
सर्व्यं च कारयामास तयोः पावकसन्निधौ ॥ २ ॥

He, then, told Rama's story to *Sugreeva* and made Rama and *Sugreeva* form a treaty in front of Fire⁴².

प्रतिज्ञै तदा रामो हनिष्यामीति वालिनम् ।
दर्शयिष्यामि वैदेहीं इत्यन्येन च संश्रुतम् ॥ ३ ॥

Then, Rama vowed, "I will kill *Vali*" and *Sugreeva* promised, "I will trace out *Vaidehi*⁴³".

⁴² It is a tradition to make rituals, pledges, etc in front of sacred fire seeing it as the Universal witness, the Fire God Agni.

सुग्रीवेणाथं रामाय भ्रातृवैरस्य कारणम् ।
निवेदितमशेषं च बलाधिक्यं च तस्य तत् ॥४॥

Then, *Sugreeva* told Rama the reason for his enmity with *Vali* and about the enormity of *Vali*'s strength.

तत्क्षणं दुन्दुभेः कायं सुग्रीवेण प्रदर्शितम् ।
सुदूरं प्रेषयामास पादांगुष्ठेन राघवः ॥५॥

Sugreeva immediately showed him the body (skeleton) of *Dundubhi*⁴⁴ and Rama kicked it with his toe to a great distance.

पुनश्च दर्शितांस्तेन सालान् सप्त रघूत्तमः ।
बाणेनैकेन चिछेद सार्धं तस्यानुशङ्क्या ॥६॥

He then showed seven *Sala*⁴⁵ trees to Rama who pierced all of them with a single arrow and thus removed *Sugreeva*'s doubt (regarding Rama's prowess).

⁴³ Another name of Sita

⁴⁴ A demon in the form of a very huge buffalo that was demon slain by *Vali*; when *Sugreeva* showed to Rama the skeleton of this demon to show him how powerful *Vali* was, Rama kicked it with but a gentle force, and threw it many miles away.

⁴⁵ A very tall and stately tree; Its botanical name is *Shorea Robusta*

किञ्चिन्द्यां प्राप्य सुग्रीवस्ततो रामसमन्वितः ।
जगर्जातीवसंहृष्टः कोपयन् वानराधिपम् ॥७॥

Having reached *Kishkindha* along with Rama, *Sugreeva* roared with great joy provoking the king of monkeys.

वाली निष्क्रम्य सुग्रीवं समरेऽपीडयत् भृशम् ।
सोऽपि संभग्नसर्वांगः प्राद्रवद्राघवान्तिकं ॥८॥

Vali came out and heavily injured *Sugreeva* in the duel. Wounded all over the body, *Sugreeva* ran to Rama.

कृतचिह्नस्तु रामेण पुनरेव स वालिनम् ।
रणायाह्यत क्षिप्रं तस्थौ रामस्तिरोहितः ॥९॥

Being given an identification mark⁴⁶ by Rama, *Sugreeva*, before long, invited *Vali* to fight again while Rama stood in hiding.

हेममाली ततो वाली तारयाभिहितं हितम् ।

⁴⁶ Rama could not kill *Vali* since he was not able to distinguish between *Bali* and *Sugreeva*. So, he put a flower garland around the neck of *Sugreeva* to distinguish him from *Vali*.

निरस्य कुपितो भ्रात्रा रणं चक्रे सुदारुणम् ॥ १० ॥

Then, wrathful *Vali*, who was wearing a golden neck-lace, ignored the advice of *Tara*⁴⁷ and fought a very fierce battle with his brother.

बाणेन वालिनं रामो विध्वा भूमौन्यपातयत् ।
सोऽपि राम इति ज्ञात्वा देहं त्यक्त्वा दिवं ययौ ॥ ११ ॥

Rama hit *Vali* with an arrow and felled him to the ground. Recognizing that it was Rama (who had struck him) *Vali* left the body and went to Heaven.

पश्चात्पन्तं सुग्रीवं समाश्वास्य रघूत्मः ।
वानराणामधिपतिं चकाराश्रितवत्सलः ॥ १२ ॥

Rama, who is affectionate towards those who take refuge in him, consoled *Sugreeva* who was in remorse and made him the king of monkeys.

ततो माल्यवतः पृष्ठे रामो लक्ष्मणसंयुतः ।
उवास चतुरो मासान् सीतविरहदुःखितः ॥ १३ ॥

⁴⁷ Wife of *Vali*

Thereafter, Rama lived on the *Malyavat*⁴⁸ Mountain along with Lakshmana for four months saddened by the separation of Sita.

अथ रामस्य निर्देशात् लक्ष्मणो वानराधिपम् ।
आनयत् प्लवगैः सार्थं हनूमत्रमुखैर्गिरिम् ॥ १४ ॥

Then, as directed by Rama, Lakshmana brought *Sugreeva* along with the monkeys led by leaders like Hanuman (to *Malyavat*).

सुग्रीवो राघवं दृष्ट्वा वचनात्तस्य वानरान् ।
न्ययुङ्ग सीतामन्वेषुं आशासु चतसृष्ट्वपि ॥ १५ ॥

Sugreeva met Rama and, at his behest, commanded the monkeys to search in four directions for Sita.

ततो हनूमतः पाणौ दधौ रामोऽङ्गुलीयकम् ।
विश्वासाय तु वैदेह्या तदृहीत्वा स निर्ययौ ॥ १६ ॥

Then Rama handed Hanuman a ring to win Sita's trust. He took it and went (in search of Sita).

⁴⁸ This is a mountain range in the east coast of India (Eastern Ghats), that falls in the northern Tamilnadu and southern Andhra Pradesh

ततो हनूमत्रमुखा वानरा दक्षिणां दिशम्।
गत्वा सीतां विचिन्वन्तः पर्वतं विन्ध्यमास्तुवन् ॥ १७ ॥

Searching for Sita, the monkeys led by Hanuman went southwards and reached the Vindhya Mountain.

समयातिक्रमात्तत्र चक्रुः प्रायोपवेशनम्।
तेऽत्र सम्पातिना प्रोक्तां सीतावार्ता च सुश्रुतुः ॥ १८ ॥

At the lapse of the time allotted to them (to find Sita) they decided to give up their lives by fasting. At that moment, they heard the news about Sita from *Sampati*⁴⁹.

ततः प्रापुरुदन्वन्तं अंगदाद्याः पूर्वंगमाः।
तं विलंघयितुं तेषां न कश्चिदभवत् क्षमः ॥ १९ ॥

The monkeys lead by *Angada* reached the sea shore. None of them was capable of crossing the sea.

⁴⁹ Elder brother of Jatayu

श्रीरामोदन्तम् Story of Sri Rama

स्वप्रभावप्रशंसाभिस्तदा जांबवदुक्तिभिः ।
संवर्धितो महेन्द्रादिम् आरुरोहानिलात्मजः ॥२०॥

Roused by the words of praise about his power by *Jambavan*, Hanuman climbed the *Mahendra* Mountain.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्ते किष्किन्धाकाण्डः समाप्तः ॥

Thus ends the Chapter on Kishkindha of Sri Ramodantam.

अथ सुन्दरकाण्डः ॥

The Chapter on “Exploits of Hanuman”

अभिवाद्याथ सकलानमरान् पवनात्मजः ।
पुष्पुवे च गिरेस्तस्मात् विलंघयितुमर्णवम् ॥ १ ॥

Saluting all *devas*, the son of Vayu⁵⁰ leapt from *Mahendra* Mountain to cross the ocean.

स समुद्रं ध्य मैनाकं सुरसामभिवाद्य च ।
निहत्य सिंहिकां नीत्या परं प्राप महोदधेः ॥ २ ॥

After crossing the *Mainaka*⁵¹ Mountain, saluting *Surasa*⁵² and tactfully killing *Simhika*⁵³, he reached the other side of the ocean.

लङ्घाधिदेवतां जित्वा तां प्रविश्यानिलात्मजः ।
सीतां विचिन्वन्नद्राक्षीत् निद्राणं निशि रावणम् ॥ ३ ॥

⁵⁰ Hanuman is said to be a partial incarnation of the god Vayu

⁵¹ A mountain which stands immersed in the ocean.

⁵² Mother of serpents; she was sent by celestial beings to test Hanuman; he convinced her of his strength and got her blessings.

⁵³ A giantess who tried to kill Hanuman by swallowing him

After subduing the deity⁵⁴ presiding over *Lanka*, Hanuman entered the city and while searching for Sita, saw Ravana asleep at night.

अपश्यस्तत्र वैदेहीं विचिन्वानस्ततस्ततः ।
अशोकवनिकां गत्वा सीतां खिन्नां ददर्श सः ॥४॥

Not seeing Sita there (Ravana's palace), while looking for her here and there Hanuman reached *Asoka* grove where he saw grieving Sita.

पादपं कञ्चिदारुद्य तत्पलाशौः सुसंवृतः ।
आस्ते स्म मारुतिस्तत्र सीतेयमिति तर्कयन् ॥५॥

Climbing a tree, Hanuman hid himself completely among its leaves and sat there wondering whether or not she is Sita.

रावणस्तु तदाऽभ्येत्य मैथिलीं मदनार्दितः ।
भार्या भव ममेत्येवं बहुधा समयाच्चत ॥६॥

⁵⁴ A goddess who was cursed by Brahma to become the watch-girl of the palace-gate tower of Ravana; she was relieved of her curse by Hanuman.

Then, Ravana came to Sita love-stricken and repeatedly implored to her to become his wife.

अहं त्वदनुगा न स्याम् इत्येषा तं निराकरोत्।
काममन्युपरीतात्मा रावणोऽथ गृहं ययौ ॥७॥

Sita rejected him saying that she would not become his wife. Then, Ravana, lustful and angry, went back to his house.

गते तु रावणे सीतां प्रलपन्तीं स मारुतिः।
उत्त्वा रामस्य वृत्तान्तं प्रददौ चांगुलीयकं ॥८॥

After Ravana left, Hanuman told news about Rama to wailing Sita and gave her Rama's ring.

तत्समादाय वैदेही विलप्य च भृशं पुनः।
चूडामणिं ददौ तस्य करे सा मारुतेः प्रियम् ॥९॥

Vaidehi took the ring and cried again bitterly and placed her favorite crest-jewel in Hanuman's hands.

मा विषादं कृथा देवि राघवो रावणं रणे।

हत्वा त्वां नेष्ठतीत्येनां आश्वस्य स विनिर्यौ ॥ १० ॥

Hanuman consoled her saying, “Devi! Do not grieve. Rama would wage battle against Ravana, slay him and take you back” and left (Asoka grove).

नीतिमान् सोऽपि संचिन्त्य बभञ्जोपवनं च तत् ।
अक्षादीनि च रक्षांसि बहूनि समरेऽवधीत् ॥ ११ ॥

Being a diplomat, Hanuman after due consideration, destroyed that garden and killed *Akshakumara*⁵⁵ and numerous other *Rakshasas* in fight.

ततः शक्तिता युद्धे बद्धः पवननन्दनः ।
प्रतापं रघुनाथस्य रावणाय न्यवेदयत् ॥ १२ ॥

Then, Hanuman, who was bound by *Indrajit*⁵⁶ in battle, apprised Ravana of Rama's valour.

रक्षोदीपितलांगूलः स तु लङ्घामशेषतः ।
दग्ध्वा सागरमूत्तीर्य वानरान् समुपागमत् ॥ १३ ॥

⁵⁵ Younger son of Ravana born to Mandodari

⁵⁶ He who had defeated *Indra*, the chief of *devas*

श्रीरामोदन्तम् Story of Sri Rama

With his tail set on fire by the *Rakshasas*, Hanuman burnt whole *Lanka* and crossing the ocean joined the monkeys.

स गत्वा वानरैः साकं राघवायात्मना कृतम्।
निवेदयित्वा सकलं ददौ चूडामणिं च तम् ॥ १४ ॥

Accompanied by the monkeys, Hanuman went to Rama, narrated all his deeds (in *Lanka*) and gave Rama Sita's crest-jewel.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्ते सुन्दरकाण्डः समाप्तः ॥

Thus ends the Chapter on “Exploits of Hanuman”
Of Sri Ramodantam

अथ युद्धकाण्डः ॥

The Chapter on “Battle”

अथासंरव्यैः कपिगणैः सुग्रीवप्रमुखैः सह ।
निर्ययौ राघवस्तूर्णं तीरं प्राप महोदधेः ॥ १ ॥

Thereafter, Rama departed along with countless batches of monkeys led by *Sugreeva* and reached the shores of the ocean.

तदा विभीषणो भ्रात्रा त्यक्तो राममुपागमत् ।
लङ्काधिपत्येऽभ्यषिञ्चत् एनं रामोऽरिमर्दनः ॥ २ ॥

Then, *Vibheeshana*, expelled by his brother, approached Rama and was crowned as the king of *Lanka* by Rama, the destroyer of enemies.

उक्तमार्गः समुद्रेण तत्र सेतुं नलेन सः ।
कारयित्वा तेन गत्वा सुवेलं प्राप पर्वतम् ॥ ३ ॥

Shown the way to cross the ocean by *Varuna*⁵⁷, Rama got the bridge built through *Nala*⁵⁸ and

⁵⁷ The lord of oceans

passing through that bridge, reached *Suvela* Mountain (in *Lanka*).

ततो राघवनिर्दिष्टाः नीलमुरव्याः प्लवंगमाः ।
रुरुधुः सर्वतो लङ्कां वृक्षपाषाणपाण्याः ॥४॥

As per the direction of Rama, the monkeys led by *Neela* laid siege to *Lanka* from all directions, holding trees and stones in their hands.

रावणस्य नियोगेन निर्गतान् युधि राक्षसान् ।
प्रहस्तप्रमुखान् हत्वा नेदुस्ते सिंहविक्रमाः ॥५॥

The monkeys, who were like lions in valor, roared after killing in battle the *Rakshasas* led by *Prahasta* as they came out as ordered by Ravana.

सुग्रीवश्च हनूमांश्च तथा राघवलक्ष्मणौ ।
राक्षसान् सुबहून् युद्धे जघ्नुर्भीमपराक्रमाः ॥६॥

Highly courageous *Sugreeva*, *Hanuman*, *Rama* and *Lakshmana*, killed numerous *Rakshasas* in the battle.

⁵⁸ This monkey was the son of *Visvakarma*, the architect of *devas*

रावणिस्तु ततोऽभ्येत्य समरे रामलक्ष्मणौ ।
ननाह नागपाशेन नागारिस्तौ व्यमोचयत् ॥७॥

Then, the son of Ravana, in the ensuing battle, tied Rama and Lakshmana by the Serpent *Astra* and they were set free by *Garuda*, the enemy of serpents.

रावणोऽपि ततो युद्धे राघवेन पराजितः ।
कुंभकर्णं प्रबोध्याशु रामं हन्तुं न्ययुङ्गं च ॥८॥

Thereafter, Ravana too was defeated by Rama in the battle. Ravana woke up *Kumbhakarna* at once and bid him to kill Rama.

ततो वानरसंघांश्च भक्षयन्तं निशाचरम् ।
इन्द्रेणास्त्रेण रामोऽपि निजघान रणे भृशम् ॥९॥

Then, in a fierce battle, Rama used the *Indra Astra* and killed *Kumbhakarna* who was devouring hoards of monkeys.

ततो रावणसन्दिष्टौ देवान्तकनरान्तकौ ।
हनूमदंगदाभ्यां तु निहन्तौ रणमूर्धनि ॥१०॥

Then, *Devantaka* and *Narantaka*⁵⁹, sent by Ravana, were killed by Hanuman and *Angada* in the peak hour of battle.

अथाऽतिकायमायान्तं रथमारुह्य वाहिनीम्।
अर्दयन्तं महाकायं लक्ष्मणश्चाऽवधीच्छरैः ॥ ११ ॥

Then, Lakshmana killed with arrows *Atikaya*⁶⁰, a huge bodied *Rakshasa*, who, coming in a chariot, wreaked havoc on the army.

ततो रावणसन्दिष्टः शक्तित् राघवौ रणे।
ब्रह्मास्त्रेण च तौ बद्धा वानरांश्चाऽवधीच्छरैः ॥ १२ ॥

Then, *Indrajit*, under the orders of Ravana, tied⁶¹ Rama and Lakshmana using the *Brahma Astra* in the battle and killed the monkeys with arrows.

अथ जांबवतो वाक्यात् गत्वा चौषधिपर्वतम्।
मारुतिस्त्र्यौषधीस्तत्राद्वद्वा कोपं चकार सः ॥ १३ ॥

⁵⁹ Sons of Ravana born to a *Gandharva* woman; *Gandharva* is a class of demigods regarded as the singers or musicians of devas.

⁶⁰ Son of Ravana born to a Rakshasi called *Dhanyamalini*

⁶¹ Rama and Lakshmana lay unconscious due to impact of *Brahma Astra*. Jambavan, then, advised Hanuman to get the herbs which would bring them back to life.

Then, Hanuman went to the mountain of herbs, as per the advice of *Jambavan*, and not seeing the herbs on the mountain, became angry.

भूधरं तं समुत्पात्य गृहीत्वा पुनरागतः ।
तासां गन्धेन वै सर्वान् राघवादीनजीवयत् ॥ १४ ॥

He uprooted and carried back the mountain itself (to *Lanka*) and brought back to life Rama and all others with the smell of the herbs.

रावणः कपिभिर्दग्धां पुरीं वीक्ष्य रुषाऽन्वितः ।
न्ययुङ्ग कुंभकर्णस्य पुत्रौ हन्तुं च राघवौ ॥ १५ ॥

Seeing his city, burnt by the monkeys, Ravana, out of fury, deputed two sons of *Kumbhakarna* to kill Rama and Lakshmana.

अथादेयन्तौ तत्सैन्यं वीक्ष्य तौ बलशालिनौ ।
कुंभं रामोऽवधीद्वाणैः निकुंभं चात्मजो रवेः ॥ १६ ॥

Then, seeing the two mighty *Rakshasas* destroying the armies, Rama killed *Kumbha* with arrows and *Sugreeva* killed *Nikumbha*⁶².

ततः खरात्मजं तेन रावणेन प्रचोदितम् ।
पीडयन्तं कपीन् वाणैर्जघानास्त्रेण राघवः ॥ १७ ॥

Then Rama killed with arrows the *Khara*'s son, who, sent by Ravana and was tormenting the monkeys with his arrows.

ततः सन्तप्तहृदयो रावणो युद्धदुर्मदम् ।
प्रचोदयामास सुतं युद्धे हन्तुं स राघवौ ॥ १८ ॥

Ravana, with a sorrowful heart, commanded his son *Indrajit*, who was unconquerable, to kill Raghava in battle.

नगरान्निर्ययौ तर्ण इन्द्रजित् समितिज्जयः ।
मायासीतां विनिक्षिप्य सर्वेषां मोहनाय वै ॥ १९ ॥

Indrajit, the winner of battles, left the city at once carrying a fake Sita in order to perplex everyone.

⁶² *Kumbha* and *Nikumbha* are the sons of *Kumbhakarna*

वानरेष्वपि पश्यत्सु हनूमत्प्रमुखेषु च ।
जघान सीतां खड्जेन शितेन समितिञ्चयः ॥२०॥

As the monkeys led by Hanuman watched, *Indrajit*, the winner of battles, slew Sita with a sharp sword.

युद्धं त्यक्त्वा ततः सर्ववानरैः स परीवृतः ।
दुःखितो हनूमांस्तत्र यत्र रामोऽव्रजल्लघु ॥२१॥

Then, surrounded by all the monkeys, grieving Hanuman left the battle field and went quickly to where Rama was.

उपगम्याऽब्रवीद्रामं हनूमान्शिखिलं तदा ।
श्रुत्वा वृत्तान्तमखिलं रामो मोहमवाप सः ॥२२॥

After going close to Rama, Hanuman told him entire incidents. Hearing all these Rama collapsed.

विभीषणोऽथ संप्राप्य दृष्ट्वा रामं च मूर्च्छितम् ।
विषण्णान् वानरान् वाचा सान्त्वयन्निदमब्रवीत् ॥२३॥

At that time, *Vibheeshana* came there, saw Rama unconscious and after consoling the grieving monkeys, told the following words (to Rama).

मिथ्या विषादं सन्त्यज्य जगन्नायक हे प्रभो ।
शृणु मेऽभिहितं वाक्यं ज्ञात्वा रावणिमानसम् ॥ २४ ॥
दुरात्मना कृता माया राक्षसेन्द्रसुतेन वै ।
निकुंभिलायां होमं तु कर्तुं तेनाधुना किल ॥ २५ ॥
लक्ष्मणं प्रेषयाद्यैव मया सह समन्विणा ।
कृते होमे तत्र रिपुरजय्यो भवति ध्रुवम् ॥ २६ ॥

“Oh Lord of the Universe! Give up false sorrow and listen to my words spoken in your interest and knowing *Indrajit*’s mind.

This is only a delusion created by the evil minded son of the *Rakshasa* king, who is about to perform a *Homa*⁶³ now at *Nikumbhila*⁶⁴.

Send today itself *Lakshmana* and some ministers along with me (to *Nikumbhila*), for if the enemy

⁶³ A fire ritual in which oblations are offered to gods by pouring ghee into the consecrated fire, often performed, for fulfillment of a particular desire.

⁶⁴ A particular spot in the forest outside the city of Lanka

completes the *Homa*, he will surely become invincible.”

उवाच रामः सौमित्रिं राक्षसेन्द्रसुतं जहि ।
गच्छेति शीघ्रं सुहृदा रावणस्यानुजेन सह ॥२७॥

Rama told Lakshmana, “Go there immediately along with your friend *Vibheeshana* and kill the son of the *Rakshasa* king.”

लक्ष्मणस्तु तदा रामम् आमच्य सविभीषणः ।
निकुंभिलां प्राप तूर्ण इन्द्रजित्यत्र वर्तते ॥२८॥

Taking leave of Rama, Lakshmana and *Vibheeshana*, hurried to *Nikumbhila* where *Indrajit* was camped.

अदर्शयद् भ्रातृपुत्रं धर्मात्मा स विभीषणः ।
लक्ष्मणो भेदयामास राक्षसाज्जरसञ्चयैः ॥२९॥

Vibheeshana, who was a righteous soul, pointed out his nephew to Lakshmana who struck the *Rakshasas* with heaps of arrows.

कृत्वा चिरं तत्र युद्धं ऐन्द्रेणास्त्रेण वै रुषा ।

शिरश्चिच्छेद सौमित्रिः दशाननसुतस्य हि ॥ ३० ॥

After battling for a long time, Lakshmana, using the *Indra astra*, cut off the head of the *Ravana*'s son in wrath.

स सुतस्य वधं श्रुत्वा रावणः शोकर्शितः ।
नष्टघैर्यो विह्वलांगो विललापाकुलेन्द्रियः ॥ ३१ ॥

Hearing about the murder of his son, *Ravana* became crestfallen, feeble hearted, his limbs turned weak and his senses agitated. He lamented (as follows).

निरर्थकं तु मज्जनम् जल्पितं च निरर्थकम् ।
येनाहमद्य पश्यामि हतमिन्द्रजितं रणे ॥ ३२ ॥

“Seeing today *Indrajit* killed in battle, my life has become a waste and my words devoid of meaning.

क गतोसि हतः शूर! मानुषेण पदातिना ।
राज्याद् भ्रष्टेन दीनेन त्यक्त्वा मां पुत्र जीवितम् ॥ ३३ ॥

“O my brave son! Getting killed by a human, who is an insignificant foot soldier, banished from his

own country, where have you gone leaving me alive?

इन्द्रं जित्वा तु तं बद्धा लङ्घमानीय वै बलात्।
अकरोस्त्वं प्रतापेन काराग्रहनिवासिनम् ॥३४॥

“Conquering *Indra*, you forcibly bound him, brought him to *Lanka* and held him captive by your valour.

मोचयामास ब्रह्मा त्वां सान्त्वयित्वामराधिपम्।
तादत्त्वं कुत्र मां त्यत्त्वा गतोऽय सुदुरासदः ॥३५॥

“*Brahma* had to pacify you and got the king of *devas* released. Where have you, so unassailable, gone today leaving me?

किं करिष्याम्यहं पुत्र! क गच्छामि वदाधुना।
नय मां यत्र गन्तासि तत्र ते न विलंबनम् ॥३६॥

“O son! Tell me now. What shall I do? Where shall I go? Without delay take me also to where you have gone.

लोकेषु त्वत्समो नास्ति तादृशास्य पिताऽस्म्यहम्।

इत्याशया स्थितं पुत्र गर्वितेन मयाऽत्र हि ॥ ३७ ॥

“O son! There is no one equal to you in this world. I was proud that I am the father of such a son.

धूम्राक्षो वज्रदंष्ट्रश्च कुंभकर्णः प्रतापवान्।
राक्षसा निहताः सर्वे प्रहस्तप्रमुखा अपि ॥ ३८ ॥
अनादृत्य तु तान् सर्वान् राक्षसान् प्रहृतानपि।
अवष्टम्य बलं पुत्र सुखेनावस्थितं तव ॥ ३९ ॥

“Valorous *Rakshasa* leaders like *Kumbhakarna*, *Dhoomraksha*, *Vajradamshtra* and *Prahasta* have all been killed.

“O my son! I didn't take to heart the loss of all these great *Rakshasas* and was not worried as I relied on your strength.”

इत्येवं बहुधा तत्र विलप्य स तु रावणः।
अन्तर्नियम्य दुःखानि कोपं चक्रे सुदारुणम् ॥ ४० ॥

After lamenting thus in a prolonged manner, Ravana overcame his grief and became livid with anger.

रथं सूत मयाग्रे त्वं क्षिप्रं कुरु जयैषिणः ।
रामं सलक्ष्मणं हन्तुं निर्गमिष्याम्यहं गृहात् ॥४१॥

“O Charioteer! Bring the chariot at once in front of me who am eager to win. I am proceeding from my home to slay Rama and Lakshmana.”

इत्युत्त्वा रथमारुह्य शीघ्रं सारथिवाहितम् ।
रामेण सह संगम्य युद्धं चक्रे सुदारुणम् ॥४२॥

Saying thus, Ravana went in the charioteer-driven chariot and engaged in a fierce battle with Rama.

ततो मातलिनाऽनीतं रथमैन्द्रं समारुहन् ।
रराज रामो धर्मात्मा ह्युदयस्थो यथा रविः ॥४३॥

Then, Rama, the embodiment of righteousness, seated in *Indra*'s chariot brought by *Matali*, glowed like the rising Sun.

चकार युद्धं तु मुलं देववृन्दे च पश्यति ।
सीताहरणजात् कोपाद्रामो धर्मभृतां वरः ॥४४॥

As the assembly of *devas* watched, Rama, the best among the virtuous, enraged by the abduction of Sita, fought a tumultuous battle (with Ravana).

अथागस्तस्य वचनात् रावणं लोककण्टकम् ।
जघान रामो लक्ष्मीवान् ब्रह्मेणास्त्रेण तं रणे ॥४५॥

Then, on the words of counsel by *Agastya*, the victorious Rama, using *Brahmastra*, slew Ravana, the enemy of all worlds.

मन्दोदरी वधं श्रुत्वा भर्तुः प्रियतरस्य च ।
विललाप रणं गत्वा कुररीव भृशातुरा ॥४६॥

On hearing about the death of her dearest husband, *Mandodari*, much afflicted with grief, went to the battle field and cried like an osprey.

विभीषणोऽथ रामेण सन्दिष्टः सह राक्षसैः ।
चकार दहनं तस्य रावणस्य गतायुषः ॥४७॥

As directed by Rama, *Vibheeshana* and other *rakshasas* cremated Ravana, whose life had come to an end.

अथाग्निवचनात् सीतां रामो वीक्ष्य सुनिर्मलाम्।
सन्दिष्टो देववृन्दैश्च जग्राह पितृसन्निधौ ॥४८॥

Then, as attested by god *Agni*, Rama found Sita very chaste and on the advice of *devas*, took Sita to his father⁶⁵.

तवैव युक्तं कर्मैतत्सर्वलोकभयङ्करम्।
तद्वैदेह्या कृते राम सा तु लक्ष्मीर्भवान् स्वभूः ॥४९॥

“O Rama! This act of yours, which is fearful to all beings and which was performed by you for the sake of Sita, is appropriate indeed. She is *Lakshmi* and you are *Vishnu*.”⁶⁶

इत्येवं देवसंघैश्च मुनिभिश्चाभिपूजितः ।
लक्ष्मणश्च तुतोषाथ रामो विश्वासमाययौ ॥५०॥

Becoming honoured by *devas* and sages with the above words, Lakshmana was pleased and Rama believed it.

⁶⁵ Dasaratha had come along with devas to watch the battle between Rama and Ravana

⁶⁶ These are words of the sages and *devas* to Rama

विमीषणस्य धर्मात्मा सत्यसन्ध्य उदारधीः ।
कारयामास लक्ष्मीवान् अनुजेनाभिषेचनम् ॥५१॥

Then, Rama, who was righteous, honest, generous and victorious, got the coronation of *Vibheeshana* performed by Lakshmana.

तथा पुष्पकमारुह्य सहमित्रैर्जगत्पतिः ।
भार्यानुजाभ्यां सहितः किञ्चिन्न्यां प्राप राघवः ॥५२॥

Thereafter, Rama, the lord of the Universe, boarded the *Pushpaka* along with his wife, brother, friends and reached.

किञ्चिन्न्यानिलयाः सर्वाः कपीनां योषिताः प्रियाः ।
सीताकुतूहलात्पुष्पं विमानं ताः समारुहन् ॥५३॥

Curious to see Sita, all the female monkeys residing in *Kishkindha* entered the *Pushpaka Vimana*⁶⁷.

अथ दाशरथिः श्रीमान् भरतं दृष्टुमिच्छ्या ।
भरद्वाजाश्रमं प्राप्तः तत्र तेन निवारितः ॥५४॥

⁶⁷ Aerial chariot named Pushpaka

Then, Rama, wishing to see Bharata, reached the hermitage of *Bharadwaja* (on his way) and was detained there by the sage.

भरतस्यान्तिकं रामः प्रेषयामास मारुतिम्।
रामस्यादर्शनाद्विप्रवेशं कांक्षतो भृशं ॥५५॥

Then, Rama sent Hanuman to Bharata who, not seeing Rama, wanted very much to end his by entering into the fire.

तत्र तेन मुनीन्द्रेण सानुजः ससुहृद्दणः।
सन्तोषविवशेनाथ रामोऽपि विधिपूजितः ॥५६॥

There, Rama, his brother and friends were received with due respect by the great sage (*Bharadwaja*) who was overcome with joy.

रामोऽथ सह संगम्य भरतेनारिघातिना।
अयोध्यां प्राविशत्तूर्ण मातृभिश्चाभिनन्दितः ॥५७॥

Thereafter, Rama went to Bharata, the destroyer of enemies, entered *Ayodhya* with him at once and was greeted by the mothers.

अथायोद्यानिवासास्ते जनास्सर्वेऽपि तोषिताः ।
अभिगम्याब्रुवन् रामं धन्या वयमिति द्रुतम् ॥५८॥

Then, all the residents of *Ayodhya* joyfully went to Rama and told him, “We all feel blessed”.

चातकस्तु घनान् दृष्ट्वा मयूराश्च यथा शिशून् ।
आसाद्य मातरस्तोषं तथा प्रापुर्जना भुवि ॥५९॥

Just as the *Chataka*⁶⁸ birds and the peacocks seeing the clouds or the mothers seeing their babies, all the citizens felt great joy (upon Rama’s arrival).

अथाभिषेकं रामस्य वसिष्ठाद्या मुदान्विताः ।
सहिता मन्त्रिभिश्चक्रः वस्वो वासवं यथा ॥६०॥

Then, *Vasishtha* and other priests along with the ministers joyfully performed Rama’s coronation just as the eight *Vasus* performed the coronation of *Indra*.

अभिषेकोत्सवे सर्वे सुग्रीवाद्याः कपीश्वराः ।
यथार्हं पूजिताश्चासन् सृग्गन्ध्यांवरभूषणैः ॥६१॥

⁶⁸ Name of a bird which is supposed to live only on rain drops

During the coronation celebration Sugreeva and other the monkey chieftains were suitably honoured with garlands, scents, cloths and ornaments.

विशिष्य मुक्ताहारेण सीतया हनूमान् मुदम् ।
पूजितश्च तथा लेखे यथा सीतावलोकने ॥ ६२ ॥

Honoured specially with a pearl garland by Sita, Hanuman felt as happy as he was by looking at Sita.

सर्वासां वानरीणां च कौसल्या पुत्रवत्सला ।
भूषणैर्भूषयामास वस्त्रचन्दनकुङ्कुमैः ॥ ६३ ॥

Kausalya, who was very affectionate towards her son, adorned all the female monkeys with ornaments, cloth, sandal and saffron.

रामाङ्गयाथ सर्वेऽपि सुग्रीवादिष्ठवंगमाः ।
किञ्चिन्धां लेभिरेकृच्छ्रात् श्रीरामविरहातुराः ॥ ६४ ॥

As bid by Rama Sugreeva and all the monkeys left for *Kishkindha*, saddened at separation from Rama.

अतिभक्तो दीर्घजीवी लङ्कासमरसाधकः ।
अनुज्ञातः स रामेण लङ्कां प्रायाद्विभीषणः ॥६५॥

Taking permission from Rama, *Vibheeshana*, who was very pious and eternally living⁶⁹ and was instrumental for the victory of *Lanka* battle, left for *Lanka*.

पितुः सिंहासनं प्राप्य भ्रातृभिः सहितोऽनघः ।
विरराज तथा रामो यथा विष्णुः त्रिविष्टपे ॥६६॥

Rama, the sinless, after ascending the throne of his father, with his brothers in attendance, shone like *Vishnu* in heaven.

लक्ष्मणानुमते रामो यौवराज्यं तु दत्तवान्।
भरतायाप्रमेयाय प्राणात् प्रियतराय सः ॥६७॥

With the consent of Lakshmana, Rama gave the position of crown prince to Bharata, the immeasurably great and dearer to Rama than his life.

⁶⁹ Vibheeshana one among the seven Chiranjeevis i.e. those said to live forever.

चत्वारस्ते महात्मानः सभार्याः रघुसत्तमाः ।
खे सतारो यथा चन्द्रः तथा रेजुः स्वपत्तने ॥६८॥

Those four great men, who were the best among the descendants of *Raghu*⁷⁰, along with their spouses, shone in their city like moon among stars in the sky.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्ते युद्धकाण्डः समाप्तः ॥

Thus ends the Chapter on “Battle” of Sri Ramodantam.

⁷⁰ An renowned ancestor of Rama

अथ उत्तरकाण्डः ॥

The Chapter on Rama's later life

राजा पर्यग्रहीदेव भार्या रावणदूषिताम्।
इत्यज्ञजनवादेन रामस्तत्याज मैथिलीम् ॥ १ ॥

Rama forsook Sita on account of the scandal by ignorant people that the king (Rama) took back his wife who was blemished by Ravana.

तद्विदित्वाथ वाल्मीकिः आनीयैनां निजाश्रमम्।
अन्तर्वर्तीं समाश्वास्य तत्रैवावासयत् सुखम् ॥ २ ॥

Then, knowing this, *Valmiki* brought pregnant Sita to his hermitage, consoled her and let her live there happily.

ऋषिभिः प्रार्थितस्याथ राघवस्य नियोगतः।
शत्रुग्नो लवणं युद्धे निहत्यैनानपालयत् ॥ ३ ॥

Then, at the request of the sages and on the orders of Rama, Satrughna killed *Lavanasura*⁷¹ in a battle and protected the sages.

रामे हेममयीं पर्तीं कृत्वा यज्ञं वितन्वति ।
आनीय ससुतां सीतां तस्मै प्राचेतसो ददौ ॥४॥

While Rama was performing a *Yajna*⁷², after installing a golden statue⁷³ in Sita's place, *Valmiki* brought Sita and her sons and turned them over to Rama.

शङ्खमाना पुनश्चैवं रामेण जनकात्मजा ।
भूम्या प्रार्थितया दत्तं विवरं प्राविवेश सा ॥५॥

Being suspected again by Rama, Sita entered the fissure created by goddess Earth to whom Sita had prayed.

अथ रामस्य निर्देशात् पौरैः सह वनौकसः ।
निमज्य सरयूतीर्थं देहं त्यक्त्वा दिवं ययौ ॥६॥

⁷¹ Grandson of sage *Visravas*

⁷² *Aswamedha*, a horse-sacrifice usually performed by emperors.

⁷³ A householder is required to have his wife by his side while performing a *Yajna*. In the absence of Sita, Rama seated a golden statue in her place.

Then, as bid by Rama, the citizens of *Ayodhya* and the monkeys drowned in the holy waters of *Sarayu*, left their bodies and went to heaven.

ततो भरतशत्रुघ्नौ निजं रूपमवाप्तुः ।
रामोऽपि मानुषं देहं त्यक्त्वा धामाविशत् स्वकं ॥७॥

Then, Bharata and Satrughna obtained their original form. Rama too left his mortal body and entered his abode⁷⁴.

श्रीरामोदन्तमारब्धातं इदं मन्दधिया मया ।
समीक्ष्य निपुणैसद्भिः संशोध्य परिगृह्यताम् ॥८॥

This story of Rama is narrated by me, a dim wit. The virtuous and learned men may carefully examine and rectify (where necessary) and accept this work.

यस्तु दाशरथिर्भूत्वा रणे हृत्वा च रावणम् ।
रक्ष लोकान् वैकुण्ठः स मां रक्षतु चिन्मयः ॥९॥

⁷⁴ *Vaikuntha*

श्रीरामोदन्तम् Story of Sri Rama

Let the supreme spirit *Vishnu*, who incarnated as *Dasarathi*⁷⁵, killed Ravana in battle and protected the worlds, protect me.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्ते उत्तरकाण्डः समाप्तः ॥

Thus ends the Chapter on “Rama’s later life” of Sri Ramodantam.

॥ इति श्रीरामोदन्तं समाप्तम् ॥

Thus ends the Sri Ramodantam, the story of Rama.

⁷⁵ Son of king Dasaratha i.e. Rama