

INDIAN MYTHOLOGY & HISTORY

RAMAYANA

ORIGINS

- The Ramayana was composed in Sanskrit, about 3000 years ago, by the poet Valmiki and in its present form consists of some 24,000 couplets divided into seven books.
- It was subsequently written in various languages. The most famous are:
 1. Ramacharita Manas in Avadhi (a dialect of Hindi) by Tulsidas in 17th century.
 2. Kamba Ramayana in Tamil in 12th century.

SHORT VIDEO ON RAMAYANA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjfKwy_0zfg

RAMA – VISHNU'S INCARNATION

- Rama is considered Lord Vishnu's 7th incarnation.
- Ravana was a burden to Earth's human due to his cruelty.
- Lord Vishnu is born as Rama to get rid of Ravana.
- Lord Vishnu's wife Goddess Lakshmi is born as Seeta.

RAMA – MARYADA PURUSHOTTAM

- Propriety of conduct
- Rama always followed his duty
- Did not disobey his father
- Did not misbehave with Kaikeyi
- Always asked Lakshmana to be considerate with others



Rama's route to Lanka



RAMA – THE WAR HERO

- Brothers had to take on Ravana. But had no army.
- He befriended Sugreeva to get himself a few soldiers and then launched a war by crossing an ocean by laying a bridge.
- When Lakshmana was injured during the war, he didn't give up.

WHEN DID IT POSSIBLY HAPPEN?

	-3000 BCE	-2500 BCE	-2000 BCE	-1500 BCE	-1000 BCE	-500 BCE	0 CE	500 CE	1000 CE	1500 CE	2000 CE
	5000 ya	4500 ya	4000 ya	3500 ya	3000 ya	2500 ya	2000 ya	1500 ya	1000 ya	500 ya	now
 India	Indus Valley Civilization			 Gangetic Valley Vedic Civilization			Jainism/ Buddhism / Mouryas	Satavahans/ Sakas/ Hunas	Guptas/ Adi Sankara	Muslim Invasion	Mughals/ Marathas/ British/ Independent India
Mesopotamia	Mesopotamian						Parthian	Romans	Islamic		
Egypt	Egyptian					Greek	Byzantine		Islamic		
Europe		Greek					Greeks / Romans	Romans	Byzantine / Romans / Dark Ages		Renaissance / Colonization / Industrial Revolution / World Wars
Persia		Ancient Persian				Persian			Islamic		
China			Ancient China			Imperial China					Ming, Qing, Communists
Americas		Mayan			Aztecs & Incas					Europeans	

HISTORY OR MYTH

- Most historians do not consider Ramayana to be historical as they do not have evidence.
- Indian literature claim that Ramayana is 'Itihas' i.e. history.
- Oral culture of transmission of knowledge. Puranas recorded stories.
- Greek brought in the written culture of documenting facts.
- Most Hindus believe that Ramayana is a true historical fact, although many do agree that it is an exaggerated version.

RAMA – FIRST EMPEROR

- After he came back to Ayodhya, he won all other kingdoms in North India.
- Since he had support of southern kings of Sugreeva & Vibhishana, he was truly the first emperor of entire India.

RAMAYANA IN OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Malaysia** - *Hikayat Seri Rama*, the Malay version of the epic poem, gives Lakshmana a larger role
- **Thailand**- *Ramakien* is the Thai version of the Ramayana. It is considered to be Thailand's national epic and has a deep influence on Thai literature, culture and art. *Ramakien* gives more importance to Hanuman.
- **Myanmar**- *Yama Zatdaw* is the unofficial national epic of Myanmar. The plot, the features and characteristics of the characters remain the same in this version, the only difference being the names, which are Burmese transliterations of the Sanskrit names.
- **Indonesia**- *Kakawin Ramayana* is an Old Javanese rendering of the Sanskrit Ramayana in kakawin meter with a similar story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7H2jQN-PNs&feature=youtu.be>

FURTHER STUDIES

- <http://www.balagokulam.org/kids/stories/ramayana.php>
 - Google Balagokulam ramayana