

Pavanasut – Hanuman

Narrator: We will now present a short skit from Sundarkand of the Ramcharit Manas (Ramayana). Hanuman is a very important character in the Ramayana. He played a very important role in assisting Rama in destroying demons on Earth and bringing back his beloved Sita from Lanka.

Scene – I

Narrator: Jambhavan is having a meeting with his vanar sena in the forest.

Jambhavan: Raja Sugreev, Senapati Angad, and our brave vanar sena. I am pleased to announce that I have chosen Hanuman to find the whereabouts of Mata Sita.

Everyone claps and makes happy noises. Hanuman ki jai. Bajrang Bali ki jai. Pawan sut Hanuman ki jai. Hanuman stands and bows toward all the members of the meeting.

Jambhavan: Hanuman, you are very brave and intelligent. There is no task which is too difficult for you. You have been incarnated to help Rama in destroying demons on this earth. Would you please find out where Ravana has kept Sita Mata.

Hanuman: I feel honored to have been chosen to find out where mother Sita is. I will not rest until I bring victory to Rama.

Hanuman jumps on a rock (chair) and raises his fist.

Bol Sri Ramchandra ki jai.

Scene – II Over the ocean.

Narrator:

As Hanuman is going across the ocean, he meets the demon, Surasa, who wants to eat Hanuman.

Hanuman: *moving on the stage, smiling and chanting, “Sri Rama, jai Rama, jai jai Rama.*

Surasa: I see my prey. This monkey is good enough for my dinner!

Surasa jumps in front of Hanuman.

Stop! Stop, O Monkey!

Hanuman: I cannot stop. I am on a very important mission. I have to complete the task assigned to me first.

Surasa tries to capture Hanuman, but Hanuman dodges her every time. Eventually, Surasa gets tired.

Hanuman: Please let me go. I am getting late.

Surasa: My blessing to you. You are very smart and polite. You will certainly achieve success in your mission.

Hanuman: Jay Surasama. Thanks for your blessings.

Scene – III

Narrator:

Hanuman reaches the gate of Lanka, which is guarded by Lankini.

Lankini: Jaagte Raho! (*yawns*) Jaagte Raho! (*yawns*)

In a squatting position, every time Lankini goes away, Hanuman goes toward the gate at Lanka.

Lankini: Hey Monkey! Where are you going?

Hanuman: Who are you?

Lankini: I am Lankini and I am in charge of the home security of Lanka. I will not let you enter the city of Lanka.

Hanuman: I do not need your permission. I have the blessings of Lord Rama.

Lankini: Who is Rama? I do not know him. I do not care if you have his permission. I will not let you enter Lanka.

Hanuman: Oh, yes you will!

He hits Lankini with his fist. Lankini falls down on the ground. Hanuman goes through the gates of Lanka.

Lankini: Oh! I now remember, when Brahmaji blessed Ravana, he told Ravana, whenever I am defeated by a monkey, that will be the time of the destruction of the demons and Ravana. I am really fortunate to see the messenger of Lord Rama.

Scene – IV

Narrator:

Hanuman is wandering around Lanka. He sees a Tulasi plant in a house and a man waking up by changing the name of Rama.

Vibheeshana wakes up.

Vibheeshana: Jai Sri Rama.

Hanuman: I am so pleased to hear the name of Lord Rama in Lanka. Please tell me who are you?

Vibheeshana: I am Vibheeshana, the brother of Ravana. I am also the devotee of Rama. Who are you?

Hanuman: I am Hanuman. I am here to find out where Ravana has hidden Sita Mata.

Vibheeshana: Ravana has kept Mata Sita in the Ashoka Vaatika.

Hanuman: Thank you, Vibheeshana. I want to see Mata Sita right now.

Scene – V

Narrator:

Sitaji is sitting in Ashok Vaatika. She is surrounded by demons. She is very sad and remembering her husband, Rama. Ravana enters Ashok Vaatika with his wife.

Ravana: I am the most powerful ruler in the whole universe and you are the most beautiful woman i have ever seen.....we could be perfectly awesome together ... will you marry me....i will make you the Queen of all my queens.

Sita: Marry you?!?! You should be ashamed of yourself. You are a coward. You did not have the courage to face Rama; that is why you forcefully brought me here in his absence.

Ravana: YOU are insulting me....either you accept my proposal or i will cut off your head with this sword (gesture with sword in belt)

Sita: Do what you want. I will never accept you, you coward!

Ravana rushes with sword in his hand towards Sita.

Mandodari: Stop, my lord. You cannot kill her. She is innocent.

Ravana: well,,,,,Mandodari,you may be right...i will give Sita one month's time.... if she does not agree to be my wife, then I will kill her.....(walk off stage with Mandodari).

Ravana leaves the stage with Mandodari.

Demon 1: Ravana is the most eligible man on Earth. Only a fool will refuse his proposal.

Demon 2: Ravana will certainly kill her.

Demon 3: Where will she get a better proposal?

Trijata: Do not be silly, girls. Listen to me carefully. I have dreamt that a monkey has burnt the entire city of Lanka. Rama has defeated Ravana. This dream is going to come true very soon. I will advise you to surrender yourself to Sita. Do not torture her.

Demons (all 3): Forgive us, mother Sita.

Sita: You are my friend in a tough time. Can you bring me some fire. I would rather burn myself than to live without Rama.

Trijata: No I cannot help you in this. It is late now. I am going to rest. Good night.

Scene – VI

Narrator:

Hanuman throws Rama's ring in front of Sita. Sita picks up the rings and kisses it.

Sita: This is my Lord Rama's ring! How did this get here?

Hanuman: Sita Maiyya ki Jai! I am a devotee of Lord Rama. He gave me his ring to give to you. I am very pleased to meet you.

Sita: Does He still remember me?

Hanuman: Sri Ramchandra misses you a lot. With the cooperation of King Sugreev and the vanar sena, he will soon arrive here to take you back with him and punish Ravana.

Sita: Please inform dear Rama that if he does not arrive in a month he will not find me alive.

Hanuman: Mata Sita, do I have your permission to eat some fruits? I feel hungry now.

Sita: Keep remembering Rama and you can eat fruits from this garden.

Scene – VII – In Ravana's Court.

Narrator:

While Hanuman was eating fruits in the garden, he was captured by security guards and was taken to Ravana for punishment.

Guards: Lankeshwar ki jai. This monkey has destroyed the Ashoka garden and killed many security guards.

Hanuman chants, "Sri Rama, jai Rama, jai jai Rama", ignoring the guards and Ravana.

Ravana: STOP your mumbling, FOOLISH MONKEY.....so you are the ONE who destroyed my fabulous ashok garden and killed my royal security guards SINGLEHANDEDLY.....who are you and why have you come to lanka You are upsetting ME the Great Ravana.....

Hanuman: I am the servant of Lord Rama, whose wife you have kidnapped. I have a message for you: return Sita to Rama and ask Lord Rama for his forgiveness. For the sake of yourself, your family and your country, that is your only hope.

Ravana: Never....why should i listen to a mere monkey.....guards kill him at once.

Vibheeshana: Brother Ravana, it is against the laws of Lanka to kill a diplomat.

Ravana: Well....(laugh)....let us have some fun and torture this impudent monkey...burn his tail with oil and let him limp back to his master Rama.....light UP his tail...

Narrator:

Hanuman increased the length of his tail by his mystic powers and consumed all the oil in Lanka as his tail was being wrapped. Then Hanuman jumped from house to house and burned the entire city of Lanka. After extinguishing his tail in the ocean, Hanuman went back to Ashoka Vaatika.

Scene VIII

Hanuman goes back to meet Sita

Hanuman: Sita Mata ki jai. May I have your permission to go back to Lord Rama?

Sita: Hanuman, please give this chooramani to my dear Lord Rama. Tell him that if he does not come for me in a month's time, he will not find me alive.

Hanuman: Mata Sita, please have faith in Lord Rama. He will surely come and take you away from here.

Scene IX: Hanuman is back in Lord Rama's camp

Narrator: Hanuman leaves Lanka and returns to Rama.

Hanuman: Sri Rama Chandra Ki Jai. Found Sita!

Rama: How is my dear Sita?

Hanuman: She is very sad. She remembers you all the time. She has sent this token for you.

Rama takes the bangle and touches it to his heart.

Rama: Site!

Hanuman: Mata Sita is suffering a lot. Please rescue her and punish the demons.

Rama: Ay, Hanuman, you are a brave and worthy devotee.

Lakshman: Hanu means to destroy or control. Man is manas or mind. So Hanuman means one who has control over his mind.

Rama: Hey Maruthi, you are a yogi having control over oneself, that is why you are able to accomplish all task successfully.

Lakshman: You are Sundara, the handsome one, not by external appearance but by your inner qualities.

Rama: "Hanuman, what attitude do you cherish towards me?"

Hanuman: "O Rama! When I think I am the body, you are the Master and I am your servant, when I think I am the jivatman (embodied individual soul), you are the whole and I am a part; but when I have the Knowledge of Reality, I see that you are I and I am you.

Ram: Hey Pavan, like Bhakthi uniting Jivatham with Paramathma, you have united Sita with me. You are the symbol of devotion and you will remain as by greatest Bhaktha.

Rama hugs Hanuman.

Ram : May you be Chiranjeevi.

Hanuman: Sri Ramchandra ki Jai!

Others: Sri Ramchandra ki Jai!, Hanuman he Jai, Anjaneya ki Jay.

Announcing the artists